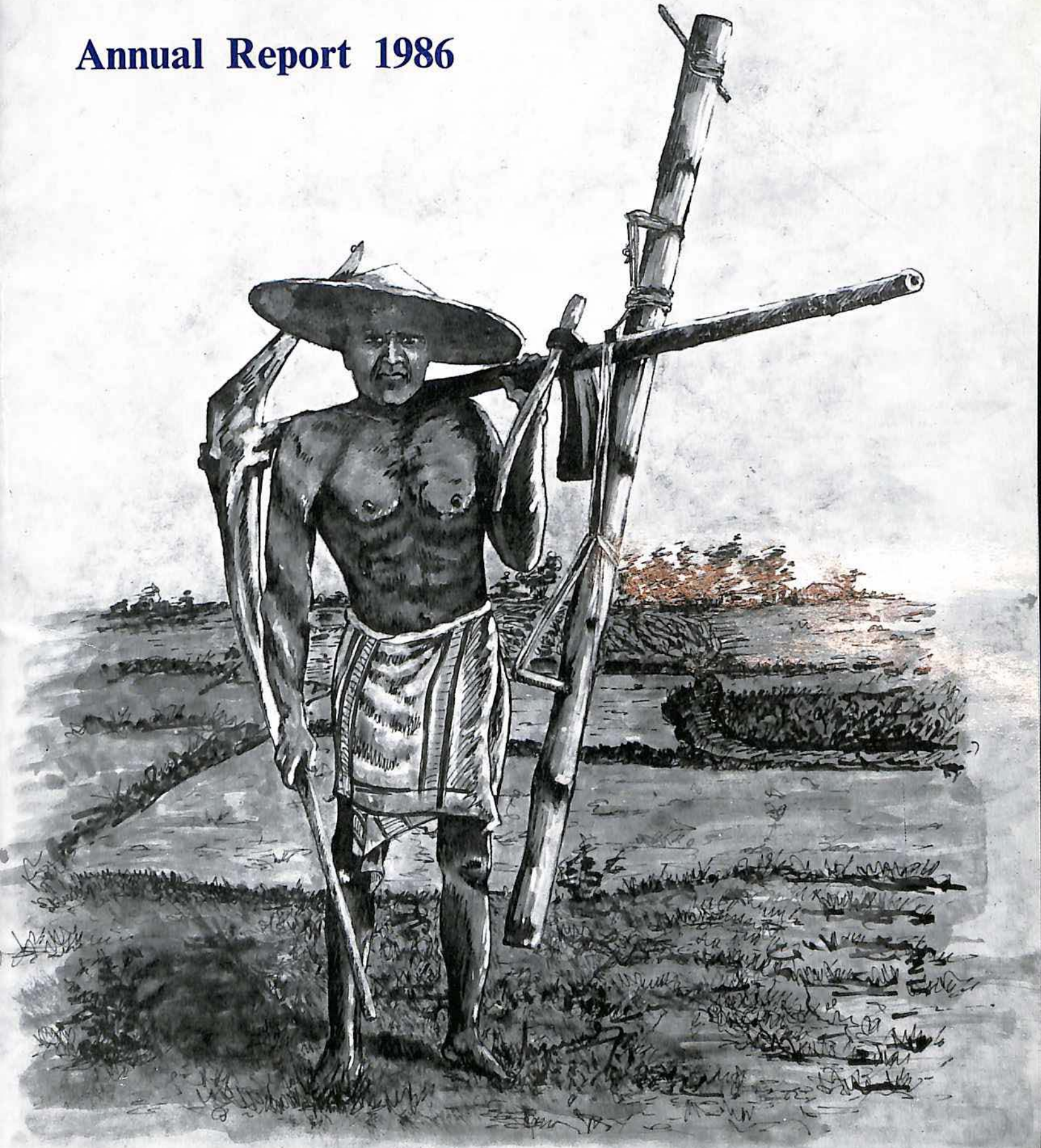
Lutheran World Service (India)

Annual Report 1986



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Director.

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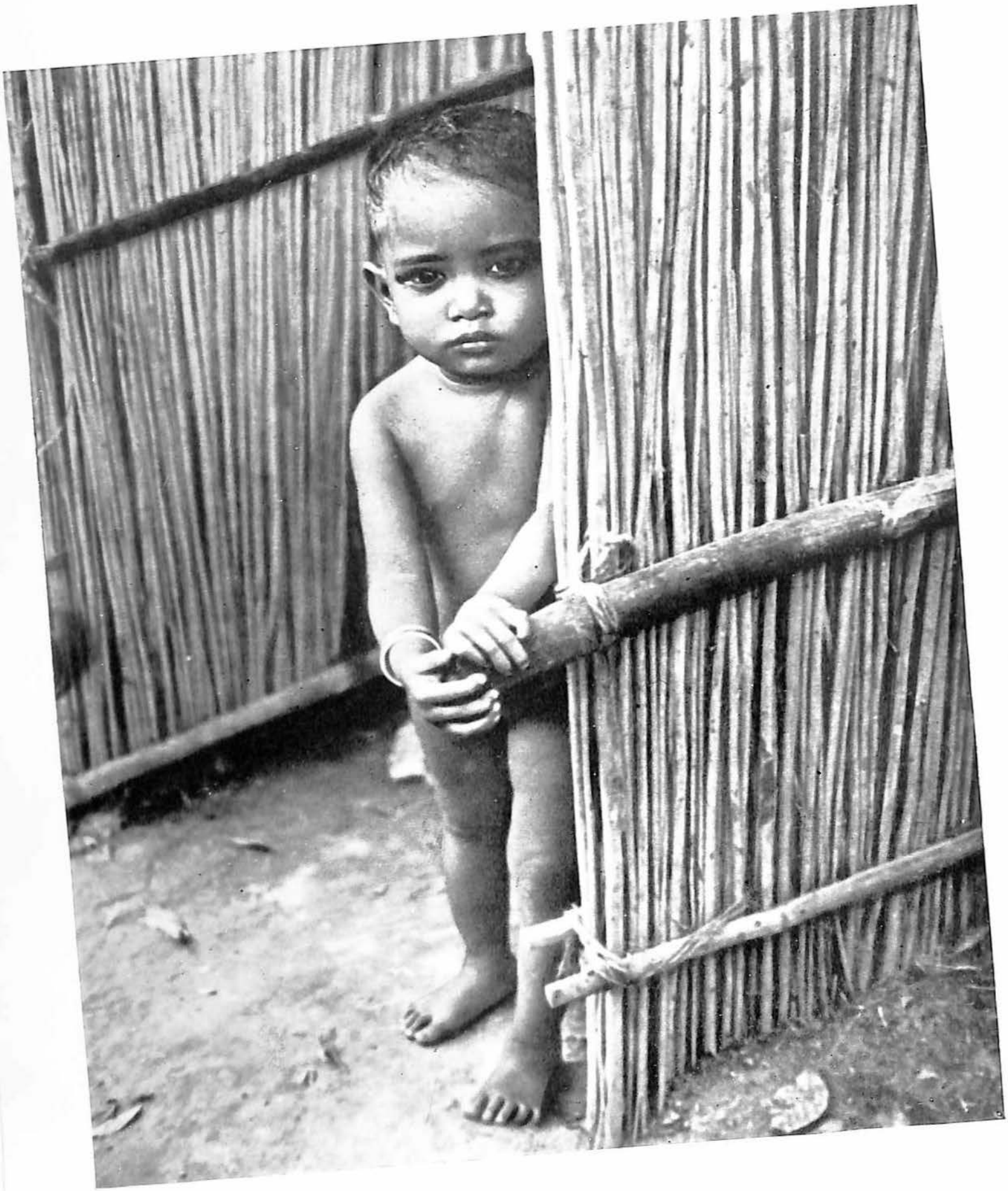


To Our Friends...

"Let Us Go Ahead" is the title of a beautiful printed pamphlet brought to me a few days ago by the Secretary of a Youth organization which was started in 1976, in one of the resettlement colonies in Murshidabad District. The colony was built in 1975-76 and LWS phased out its support in 1983. The pamphlet describes how people who had been destitutes due to river erosion and migration from neighbouring Bangladesh and who have squatted at road sides for years, gradually became a community. They have learnt that collectively, they could care for each other. It describes their many economic achievements and illustrates their pride in community achievements. A primary school has been run by the community for several years and was recognised by the Government a few years ago. The pamphlet also announces that from the beginning of 1987, the community has ventured to start a junior high school—with honorary teachers at present—but with confidence that they will receive Government recognition in the near future.

In all LWS' project areas, people have been toiling for some years with creation of village organisations as well as organised groups for economic development. These organisations have tried to build up funds which can meet some of the needs of the community, functioning as village banks. In one village, LWS assisted by sinking three out of seven tubewells needed in the village. The repayment from these three wells will be used for installation of new wells till the total number is reached. The first self-financed well will be installed in early 1987. In another village, people discussed the problem faced by many families at the time of Durga Puja and Diwali. These being the biggest festivals of the year, it is the time when the whole family must have new clothes and there are many other expenses as well. But it is also the time just before harvest when cash is scarce in most houses. Traditionally people go to the money-lenders and take a short term loan to be paid back by February with interest of upto 50 percent for only five months. In 1986, the village decided to finance the needy from the funds they themselves have created, a first step away from the vicious cycle of bondage to money-lenders.

A few days ago when I visited Khudirampalli settlement in North Calcutta, the Secretary of the residents' organisation showed with great pride the notification in the Official Gazette that the land on which the colony stands, had officially been acquired by the Government. The long and laborious efforts of the community were finally coming to an end. They were no longer illegal settlers and can now go ahead with their plans to turn Khudirampalli into a township which is truly theirs.

These are a few examples to show how communities, over the years, have realised the strength in working together. In 1986, this has become evident through the plans made by people in all our programme areas, plans which are largely prepared and implemented by people themselves. We have been reconfirmed in our confidence that people have the wisdom to plan for their own future as well as the ability to realise the plans when resources are available. We can only agree with our friends in Murshidabad "Let Us Go Ahead".

The staff of Lutheran World Service (India) join me in expressing our gratitude to the Government of West Bengal and Orissa for the cooperation we have enjoyed during 1986. We also express our gratitude to our Head Office in Geneva and our donors in different parts of the world. Last but not least, we express our thanks for the cooperation we have had with so many people in the villages of West Bengal and Orissa and in the slums of Calcutta in their quest for a better future.

March, 1987.

AAGE LARSEN

PREM (PLANNING, RESEARCH, EVALUATION & MONITORING) UNIT

The PREM Unit consists of the Programme Section, which is a part of LWS-India Management and the PREM Cell, a group of specialists in various disciplines from outside LWS-India.

Programme Section oversees the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, assists in streamlining information flow systems, collects and collates data, acts as a conduit for the dissemination of information and reports on events. Staff training programmes for increasing managerial capabilities and understanding of the complexities of the development process are also periodically undertaken by the Programme Section.

PREM Cell, a consultative and advisory body to the Management of LWS-India, with expertise in development related disciplines, helps to build up capability and inject greater professionalism in spheres of planning, monitoring and evaluation among LWS-India personnel and the target population. Frequent interaction and inputs from the PREM Cell help the project personnel to acquire fresh insight into the changing ideologies, concepts and mechanisms of development.

The year began with a workshop on 'Problems of Landless' in Murshidabad project area to understand the intricacies of the problems of landless population as well as to explore possible solutions, within LWS-India's operational framework. Recognising the severity of the socio-political and economic constraints in formulating suitable strategies, the workshop, organised by PREM Unit, nevertheless, emphasised on the need for finer analysis and understanding of the problems of the landless, by categories and causes. Need for working out innovative and appropriate alternative strategies and implementing these with the full co-operation and involvement of the people were considered vital.

Follow-up exercises conducted in Murshidabad, subsequent to the workshop, laid the framework for a systematic and indepth study and analysis of the problems of landless, on a larger scale. A Research Wing, established within the Programme Section to conduct applied research and analysis, commenced with the study of the landless issue as one of its primary activities. A consultant was also appointed during the year, to strengthen and guide the activities of the Research Wing.

A two day workshop on 'Development of Local Organisations and Leadership' helped the project personnel and the PREM Cell to interact and share views and experiences on this vital issue. Though a number of models emerged during the workshop, the consensus was for a two or even three tier structure at the village level. The growth and structure of people's organisations are guided and greatly influenced by their socio-cultural and economic environment. Hence, it was agreed that any attempt to create uniform structures would not only be impractical but would defeat the very purpose and render ineffective the inherent dynamism of such organisations.

Evaluation of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit's activities was initiated by the PREM Cell in the later part of the year. The participatory evaluation process focussed attention on the following three aspects:

— Evaluation of decisions, action and constraints during emergencies.

— Assessment of the use of investments in the spheres of construction of houses, schools and other infrastructure as part of post emergency rehabilitation activities.

— Evaluation of the E & R Unit itself in terms of optimum utilisation of manpower and other resources as well as coordination with other LWS departments and upgrading of staff capabilities through training programmes.

The approach being attempted in respect of the new Birbhum project, attaches far greater importance to the interaction process and involvement of the people in the development efforts, right from the project's

inception. Use and development of local resources with particular emphasis on the human aspect are the main features of the project design. The low key and low investment project approach stresses on identification of potential community leaders and imparting training in people's planning by involving the village leaders and youth for collection of baseline information and other details to maximise people's participation and identification with project activities. PREM Cell actively participated in the process of designing project strategies, philosophy and methodologies as well as undertook preliminary orientation courses for project personnel.

During periodic visits to Project WHAT, Kultali and Murshidabad, PREM Unit directed efforts towards helping the project personnel to gain better conceptual understanding and insight into the complexities of the project in relation to the area, people, their needs, priorities and extent of people's involvement. Systematic assessment of project activities vis-a-vis the primary goals and objectives was continuously stressed. An exercise was also undertaken to study the relationship between Development Communication Unit and field projects to assess the areas of strength and weaknesses as well as to streamline the process of planning for Training, Workshop and Seminars (TWS), to make it more participatory and need based.

Besides periodically reviewing their own performance, the PREM Cell also designed formats to obtain feedback from the field project personnel, with whom the members had interaction in course of the last two years.

Statement of Needs (SON) prepared annually, represents an extremely vital document, as it states the guiding principles, philosophy, objectives and goals of LWS-India activities. Preparation of SON is one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Programme Section. An intensely participatory approach towards preparation of SON, involved field visits by a review team consisting of members from Programme Section, Finance Department, Development Communication Unit and Community Health Services Department. This participatory approach was highly rewarding for the project teams as well as the review team and helped towards preparation of a realistic and representative SON, reflecting the needs and aspirations of the people and the project.

Continuing its efforts to streamline the planning and monitoring process, Programme Section undertook the task of redesigning the internal reporting systems. Newly designed reporting formats are envisaged to improve the efficiency of data collection, collation and information flow systems. The new formats visualise greater involvement of the people in the task of gathering information.

With the installation of computers, creating computer compatible systems became imperative. A two day workshop conducted on the new information flow system, with technical expertise from PREM Cell helped to understand and assess the information requirement at different levels of management as well as to prepare appropriate formats.

During 1986 the PREM Cell consisted of:

Dr. B. R. Patil, Chairman
Sociologist
New Delhi.

Dr. Prodipto Roy
Sociologist
Kathmandu
Nepal.

Mr. S. K. Chakraborty
Indian Administrative Service (Retd.)
Calcutta.

Dr. A. K. Bhattacharyya
Agronomist
Calcutta.

Dr. K. Rajaratnam
Executive Secretary
United Evangelical Lutheran
Churches in India,
Madras.

Mr. J. B. Singh
Action for Food Production (AFPRO)
New Delhi.

Mr. Neville Pradhan
Programme Secretary of LWS India
& Member-Secretary.

WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE TRIDENT (WHAT)

From its inception, as a Water Resource Project (WRP) concentrating mainly on provision of safe drinking water through drilling of rig bored tubewells, the project, by the beginning of 1983 had metamorphosed into its present form. Soon thereafter, crystallisation of the concept of watershed management, as envisaged, facilitated the design and subsequent emergence of a micro-regional integrated project, in the vicinity of the Chotanagpur plateau.

Commencing with a gradual coverage of 26,000 people in 65 villages spread over 3 Blocks, the Project further extended its area of operation during the year. By end 1986, Project WHAT had become operational in 96 villages covering a population of 39,000 in Jamda and Bijatala Blocks of Mayurbhanj District in Orissa and in Bandwan Block of Purulia District in West Bengal.

The unique socio-cultural ethos of the predominant (80%) tribal population with a history of deprivation and exploitation, yet resilient and drawing sustenance from a highly degraded environment, provide the backdrop to the Project.

Although, the economy is largely agrarian, a majority of the farming population is able to grow only one principal crop, the success of which is dependent on erratic monsoons. The Project area spread over the 3 Blocks is drought prone, undeveloped and remote. The topography is rugged and barren, interspersed with rocky outcrops in an undulating terrain. Except for Bijatala Block in Mayurbhanj, both Jamda and Bandwan are bereft of any forest or grass cover, which has aided and enhanced the process of erosion, rendering large tracts of once fertile land into gullies and degraded patches.

Project WHAT based on watershed management, emphasises on the optimum use of precipitation through improved water, soil and crop management as well as stabilisation of agriculture in and around the watersheds. The program revolves largely around effective conservation methods designed to halt and reverse the destructive forces through better resource management techniques. Efforts are aimed at harmonising the socio-economic activities with the environment in order to bring about qualitative changes in people's lives.

Hence, watershed management encompasses not only engineering and agriculture but also involves education, forestry and balanced development of resource based industries.

A section of the geo-hydrological map of the Jamda project area with focus on the mini watershed under Khadkhai river basin illustrates the integrated approach adopted by the project to regenerate and revive the economy as well as the ecosystem.

It is in essence an integration of appropriate and need based technologies for benefit of the farmers and other users who are the real managers of the watershed.

As it is people who occupy the central position in the matrix of the development process, their involvement and participation in all spheres are imperative and represent essential pre-conditions for achieving the project's stated goals.

It is therefore natural that the project lays particular emphasis on organising people around viable economic, social and cultural activities. Consequently, local organisations have mushroomed in the form of functional groups, mahila samities (women's associations), youth clubs and village committees. Formation of capital by many of these bodies for their own development and welfare is a highly positive feature. While promotion and strengthening of community organisations as forums of collective functioning represent a fundamental requirement, complementary inputs in the form of material resources and services help to accelerate the development process.

Resources and services extended to the people during the year included development of land, drinking water and irrigation infrastructure, increasing agriculture productivity, provision of health services, education and training, development of village crafts and industries as well as assistance for creating avenues of supplementary incomes. The planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all the activities are primarily people's responsibilities in which the project assumes the role of facilitator and educator.

Geo-hydrological map of the mini watershed under Khadkhai River Basin—Jamda

DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

More than half-way through the UN sponsored International Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Decade (1981-90) LWS—India's commitment to provide safe drinking water to people in the project's operational area, continued with renewed vigour.

The government's aim of providing potable water to more than 100,000 water scarce problem villages by the end of the present decade is a stupendous task which calls for co-operation and collaboration at all levels. LWS' active participation in this unique program of national importance and its commitment to improve the quality of people's lives, serves as an impetus to step up efforts to increase water supply.

The Water Resources Project initiated 10 years ago in Purulia district of West Bengal, in course of time, extended its operational area to cover other districts and states.

Lack of safe drinking water is a widespread problem in many parts of the country, but particularly acute in remote and drought prone areas.

The drilling unit of LWS-India caters to the drinking water needs of people in remote villages which have no assured and safe water sources.

Quite often, the first mechanised vehicle to have ever reached many of these villages, is in the form of an LWS drilling rig, which serves to illustrate the isolation of these areas.

During 1986 drilling operations were confined to Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts in Orissa and Purulia district in West Bengal. One hundred forty-one borewells

The rig in operation

were successfully drilled covering an equal number of villages in the three operational areas. Additionally, a major tubewell rejuvenation program, with active collaboration of UNICEF and the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), was initiated in Purulia. Of the 600 tubewells identified as defunct in a Government Survey report, 101 tubewells were rejuvenated in 9 blocks of the district. Major portion of the material resources including hand pumps, G. I. pipes, compressor as well as a delivery van were made available by UNICEF & PHED, while LWS, with its motivated and highly trained manpower, executed the program. Together, these wells served approximately 60,000 people.

In Purulia and Mayurbhanj the concerned departments of the State Governments undertook all the post drilling activities, which include installation of handpumps and platform construction. Cost of casing pipes and sockets used in the bores, were reimbursed to LWS by the respective PHED's.

WATER — Although the annual average precipitation in the program area is 1500 mm—adequate for optimum crop production, the advantages are largely lost due to the undulating nature of the terrain and the low water retention capacity of the soil. As a result, even the principal monsoon crop suffers from low and uneconomic yields.

The problem is so vast and complex that no single measure is considered adequate. On the contrary, it requires a combination of various techniques involving soil and water conservation through bunding, graded furrows, terracing, forestry and creation of irrigation infrastructure. At the same time, it is absolutely imperative to ensure that the measures are economically viable, pose no serious risks, represent models for replication where possible, and are technologically and environmentally sound and acceptable to the local farmers, particularly the poorest.

The challenge however lies in designing programs to cover the greatest number of impoverished farmers and improve the quality of their lives within the shortest possible time.

While technical and economic viability are crucial factors for development of a micro watershed, factors related to social feasibility and the extent of people's involvement, influence the ultimate decision.

Irrigation infrastructure developed during the year focussed on soil and water conservation, and on the use and recycling measures in five such watersheds, covering between 50-100 acres.

Such measures included bunding, forestry, surface water collection,

tanks and ponds, ring wells, dug wells, gully plugging, channel distribution of rainwater, low cost fallboard structures for checking fast flowing seasonal streams and appropriate drainage for removal of excess water in the valley bottoms.

While the aim and principles pertaining to management of land, water and biotic factors remain constant, the type of infrastructure developed in a particular area is determined by the nature of the watershed. Though, collection and conservation of run-off water in the tanks and ponds partially mitigate the ill effects of drought by stabilising crop production, the quantum of water collected is small, compared to the demands of the crop. Hence, it becomes necessary to tap underground and sub-surface water through ring wells, dug wells and dug-cum-bore wells.

Twenty-four tanks, bundhs etc. and 66 irrigation wells excavated during the year provided supportive as well as assured sources of irrigation for over 400 acres benefitting 555 small and marginal farmers.

Due to the high intensity of rainfall and low infiltration capacity of the soil, large tracts of land are becoming progressively barren and unsuitable for crop production, particularly in the Jamda area. Such lands, which were devoid of any forest or grass cover, have been put to cultivation by bunding, terracing and forestry besides gully control through renovation and plugging. All these measures together brought 280 acres under cultivation, thereby augmenting the income of 320 poor and marginal farmers.

Water is a scarce resource, particularly so, in the predominantly agrarian program area, where the

Women and children - the principal beneficiaries

In Ganjam district of Orissa the drilling team undertook, besides drilling, installation of the tubewells complete with handpump fittings as well as platform construction. The State Government bore 30 percent of the total project cost and also provided site office and storage facilities where available.

A high level of co-operation and collaboration is maintained with UNICEF, the respective State Governments as well as the Panchayats.

The Ground Water Investigation Team (GIT) of LWS conducted geophysical and geohydrological studies to locate precise drilling sites, where sufficient groundwater is expected to be available. Such investigations by the team greatly reduced the possibilities of unsuccessful bores.

The first flush of gushing water accompanied by shouts of intense joy and the spontaneous participation of the people in the program, are major contributory factors for keeping the drilling team's morale high. The teams, which often work in extremely difficult conditions, consider this as ample reward for a job well done. Communities contribute free labour for building approach roads, provide water for flushing borewells and make available temporary accommodation for the drilling crew.

To a people denied of safe drinking water supply, creation of such a facility often represents an important event in the history of the community. While all members of the community benefit from this resource, it is the women and children who are the principal beneficiaries of this programme.

The 'Technology Mission on Drinking Water in Villages and Related Water Management' set up by the Government of India to help the process of providing ade-

quate safe drinking water to rural areas, in its document not only endorses the above view but further highlights the need for involving women in all aspects of the nation's drinking water program, particularly in the sustained management of the water supply system.

The four Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) formed to provide science and technology inputs such as selection and development of technologies to suit the Mission approach, would assist the Empowered Committee—the central co-ordinating body. The four TAG's have been entrusted with the following specific functions.

TAG-I – Identification and preparation of plans for developing water sources.

TAG-II – Identification and development of traditional sources.

TAG-III– Identification and developing technologies for quality control.

TAG-IV– Identification and improvement of inexpensive substitute materials and developing economical designs.

TAG-II of the Mission which is of immediate concern focusses on improving the cost effectiveness and performance of the ongoing rural drinking water supply programs. TAG II will also ensure that adequate drinking water of acceptable quality is available on a long term basis. This, the Mission will do by identifying problems and seeking low-cost solutions through the application of scientific and technological inputs.

The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology—CAPART (formerly CART) as the nodal agency and convenor for TAG-II, chose the National Association of Water Resource Development Agencies—NAWDA, as consultants and asked them to identify voluntary agencies for the project.

Among others, NAWDA identified and requested LWS to participate in the project which is being implemented in 10 districts spread over an equal number of States within the country.

LWS-India, as member of TAG-II, was asked to concentrate on the District of Bankura in West Bengal and has since submitted a detailed report of its findings which was accepted.

NON-COMPREHENSIVE AREA

Drilling

Area	Drinking water wells	Level of participation (in percent) Govt.	People	Others	L.W.S.
Mayurbhanj	32	40.0	0.3	6.7	53.0
Purulia	21	50.6	0.2	—	49.2
Ganjam	53	30.0	—	—	70.0

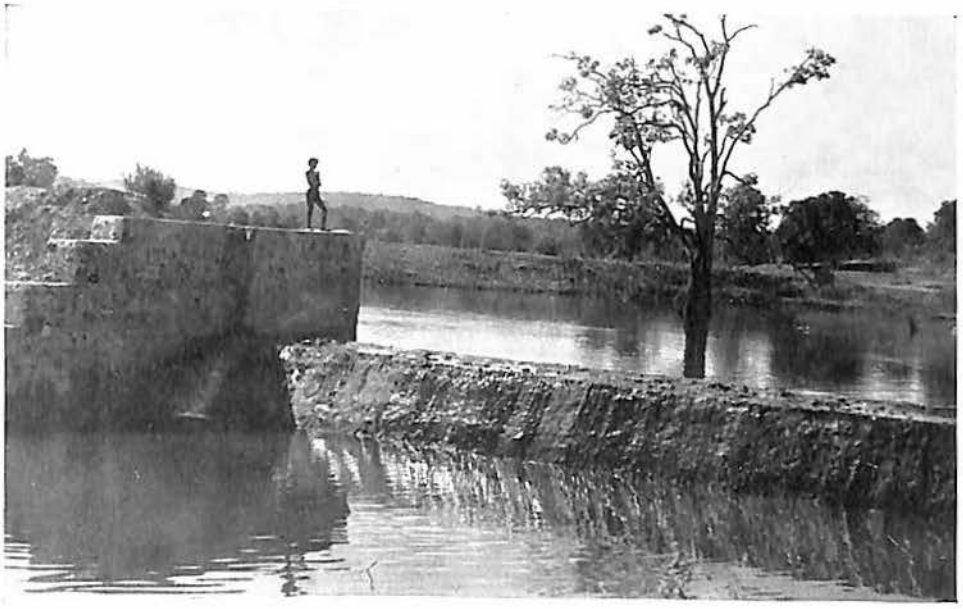
Tubewell Installation & Platform Construction

Area	Tubewells	Level of participation (in percent) Government	L.W.S.
Mayurbhanj	7	100	*
Ganjam	52	30	70

* LWS extended services in terms of monitoring and ensuring implementation of the project.

Rejuvenation Programme

Area	Tubewells	Level of participation (in percent) Government	Others	L.W.S.
Purulia	95	28	46	26



Over 400 acres were brought under irrigation

economy of the farmers is largely determined by the topographical conditions of the land and the available water resources. Endeavouring to attain optimum use of water, efforts have been initiated to study methods for application of water to tide over moisture stress periods.

Knowledge and experience gathered over the past few years proved extremely useful in the project's search for acceptable solutions. Concentrating on use of indigenous technology, breakthroughs were achieved in designing low cost irrigation implements made out of local resources such as wood, bamboo etc. At the same time, where needs and technology demanded otherwise, waterpumps were made available on a cluster-compact-area basis. Besides accelerating formation of viable organisations centred around economic activities, use of such equipment also contributes to the technological advancement of the rural milieu.

AGRICULTURE — Similar to situations prevailing in most parts of the country, agricultural productivity is determined largely by the monsoons. The erratic nature of the monsoons, coupled with factors related to the region's topography, marginal land holdings and lack of capital for inputs, renders farming to subsistent levels. Consequently, despite being the major economic activity, agriculture provides sustenance for a period of 6-7 months in a year. For the rest of the year, people depend on forest produce and occasional employment as casual labourers while a sizeable section also migrate to other areas in search of livelihood. Periods of drought further aggravate the situation, often resulting in unimaginable deprivation of the people.

Against this backdrop the project's efforts to provide appropriate inputs and improve methods of cultivation for increased productivity have achieved significant success.

Agriculture technology is appropriate when the farmers can adopt it and if need be, adapt it. Furthermore, the technology should satisfy both economic and social needs.

The extension service of the project's Agriculture program attempts to fulfil this very objective by concentrating on the training and education needs of farmers. By far, field demonstrations done by farmers have proved to be the most effective means of educating and motivating farmers to accept and initiate changes. Demonstrations to highlight the differences between local and improved practices and the benefits of using improved seeds and judicious mix of organic and inorganic fertilisers as well as appropriate plant protection measures, proved extremely effective. Additionally, management practices which suit local conditions such as improved methods of soil conservation through inter-cropping, ridge and furrow method of cultivation, and other techniques were also demonstrated.

The spread effect of earlier years demonstrations aided by continuous efforts during the year enhanced adoption of new ideas and technologies which are becoming readily available at farmers' doorsteps. Participation and involvement of the village organisations, acting as levers of change within their communities, further accelerated the process. These represented major contributory factors for the exceptional performance of Agriculture Assistance program, as well as the Agriculture Demonstration activities. Coverage of 384 acres belonging to over 1900 farmers in 76 villages illustrates the widespread nature of the demonstration program.

Fulfilling the training and education needs of farmers

Similarly, coverage of 2230 acres benefitting more than 3800 farmers under the Agriculture Assistance program was far in excess of the targets set for the year as well as higher than the previous year's record figure of 1600 acres.

Inter cropping and mixed cropping as means of reducing run off and thereby conserving soil and moisture, proved effective. In order to meet the communities' fuel as well as fodder needs for their livestock, social and community forestry were promoted and undertaken on land, not suitable for crop production. Cashewnuts, Eucalyptus, Acacia and other similar species planted on 54 acres of hitherto barren land, benefitted over 300 families. Horticulture and model orchards were also advocated as means of providing sources of food as well as additional income for the families and communities concerned.

Over 7500 plants were distributed to 1300 families. Likewise, 'babui' grass seedlings were distributed to grow on non-agricultural land as a means of arresting soil erosion as well as providing a source of income through rope making.

Measures of this nature however small, represent a vital feature in arresting and preventing the progressive depletion of the ecological bank which is being relentlessly driven towards bankruptcy.

OTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES — Despite its predominance as the major economic activity, the seasonal nature and poor returns reduce agriculture to a less than viable proposition. Furthermore, due to its remoteness, the program area has been virtually untouched by industrialisation and modernisation. Together, these factors provide an extremely strong case for strengthening and developing subsidiary sources of income.

People's inherent lack of organisational and managerial skills and the consequent inability to keep pace with demands of changing consumer tastes have resulted in a progressive decline of the traditional village crafts and industries. Rapid depletion of forests has also

'Babui' grass rope at the village market

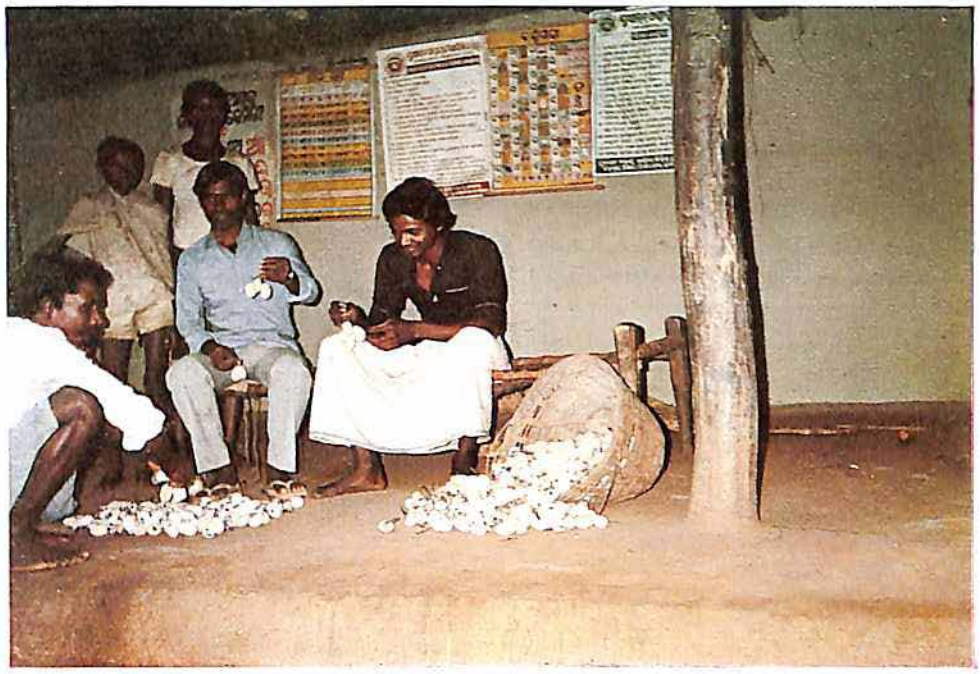
added to deprivation from a traditional source of livelihood. Consequently, seasonal migration of the able-bodied men and women has become a regular feature. Ironically however, they return as poor as they were, when they had set out.

The project's efforts to find viable alternatives focussed on factors including linkage with local resources, available skills and market facilities, which represent important considerations for enlarging the scope of subsidiary sources.

People's incomes were augmented through various measures including weaving, pisciculture, bamboo crafts, leaf plate making and other village crafts and industries, as well as grain, 'mahua' and tamarind banks. Significantly, all the above activities were stimulated through existing organised groups or new groups organised specifically for these purposes.

Assistance was also provided to individuals and families for livestock farming including backyard poultry, sericulture, 'babui' grass rope making etc.

The economic measures undertaken during the year helped 800 families from the weakest sections to augment their incomes and strengthen the bonds of sharing through organised group activities. Concerted efforts were made to enhance people's abilities to sustain and generate further growth of the capital made available to them. Training for development of entrepreneurship and education in respect of the fundamental elements of management, production and marketing were continuously imparted. Together, these efforts have created among the people, greater awareness of their situation as well as provided viable alternatives and strong impetus for improving their economy and living standards.



'Tassar' cocoons—a subsidiary source of income

PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION AND VILLAGE REVOLVING FUND — Phenomenal growth in the number of local organisations, increase in organised group activities and subsequent creation of village revolving funds are strong indications of people's growing faith and confidence in the project's as well as in their own ability to transcend and overcome barriers which have long seemed unsurmountable.

Years of exploitation and deprivation had isolated these communities from society's mainstream. Hence, their apprehension of concepts to which they were unable to relate easily, was but natural.

In course of time, as the project's intentions became clearer, acceptance came naturally and relationships stabilised. Greater awareness resulted in increased group activities and mutual concern. Thus, after the initial years of apparently little progress the project achieved significant success in its efforts to mobilise and organise the rural poor for their own development.

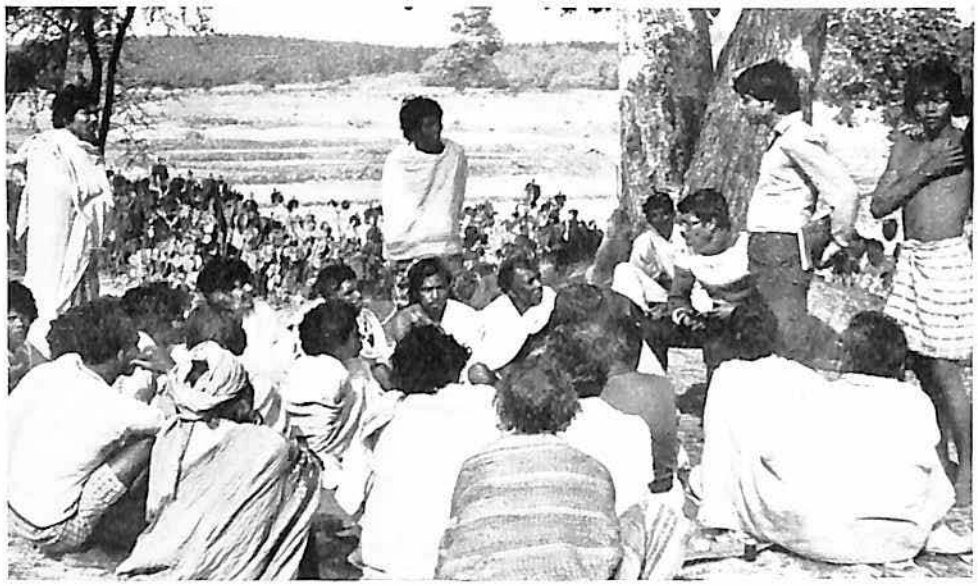
Organised bodies in the form of village committees, youth clubs, 'mahila' (women's associations) samities and other self-help (functional) groups have emerged. Collective functioning and people's decision making process are no longer abstract concepts, but realities which have gradually grown in strength. Over the years communities have become increasingly assertive of their rights and equally convinced about the dynamics of co-operation.

Creation of the village revolving funds from voluntary contributions and repayment of loan assistance, represented the next logical step in the matrix of the development process. The advantages of their very own source of capital in the form of village banks completely captivated the communities' imagination. Birth of a new confidence and reali-

sation of their own potential and collective strength, has been increasingly manifested in the people's attitudes and activities.

By end December 1986, an amount of nearly Rs. 7,00,000/- represented capital accumulated in the form of village revolving funds, while a sum of approximately Rs. 100,000/- was recycled among the people.

In all the three Blocks, the amounts recycled were primarily for agriculture, pisciculture, animal husbandry, rope making, weaving, rice business and various other economic activities. Without exception, those assisted belonged to the economically weaker sections.



Organising people around viable activities

EDUCATION AND TRAINING — The process of development per se requires the transfer of new and appropriate technology, strengthening and updating of local technology, increasing the level of awareness among people, promoting community health, improving functional literacy, knowledge and skills and organising people around viable activities. This process envisages creation of an environment, wherein people become capable of mobilising resources and controlling the development process.

LWS-India, as a facilitator of this process attaches great importance to education in its various forms as the primary tool for community development. The underlying principle and philosophy of all its programs is deeply embedded in the concept of development through education. Be it development of agriculture, village trades, irrigation, community health, literacy programs or development of community organisations, education in its various forms, plays a most crucial role, particularly in an area where more than 80 per cent of the people are illiterate.

Non-formal and functional education supplemented by mobile library packets, training, workshops and seminars (TWS) aimed towards developing managerial skills, knowledge and aptitude. Use of various forms of traditional as well as non-traditional media also play a vital role in dissemination of information.

During the year 59 centres imparted non-formal education to 1830 men and women. Additionally, 990 people and 50 percent of the staff profited from 26 TWs' organised to supplement and improve their knowledge and skills.

Construction of seven community centres provided forums for community meetings and various other social and cultural activities, which are inherent in the tribal people's way of life.

HEALTH — Community health services, with its emphasis on preventive health care rely very much on the educational and interaction processes to achieve its objectives. Trainings, health education, care of under-six children, ante and post natal care of mothers and strengthening the community to ultimately take care of its own health needs, are the major components of the community health program.

Village women, particularly the mothers are becoming increasingly aware and involved in the development process, primarily as a result of increased integration of the health services with other aspects of village development.

During the year, nearly 2000 cases were treated under curative health services, while the intensive health care, with emphasis on the promotive and preventive aspects, covered 7,300 people in 20 villages. Training in Community Health was imparted to 38 people including 4 staff.

In all spheres of development activities, collaboration and co-operation with various government departments as well as other voluntary agencies, including UNICEF continue to grow.

WATER

Area	Drinking			Irrigation			
	Tube well	Rejuve-nation	Bore-cum-dug well	Bore-cum-dug well	Ring well	Tanks/ bund/etc	Acres covered
Mayurbhanj	29	—	—	—	29	14	263
Purulia	—	6	6	3	34	10	140

AGRICULTURE

Area	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers covered	Level of participation (in percent)	
			People	L.W.S.
Mayurbhanj	1978	1960	33	67
Purulia	131	748	60	40

CROP PROTECTION

Area	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers covered	Number of villages
Mayurbhanj	98	372	50
Purulia	23	728	22

TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
Dryland farming & watershed management	2	—
Watershed planning	6	—
Handpump maintenance	2	—
Use of small irrigation pumps	4	—
Agriculture	44	190
Social forestry	2	—
Non formal education	12	72
Audio visual aids	2	—
Rural communication	11	—
Animal husbandry	—	12
Soap making	3	20
Health	4	34
Food & nutrition	14	655
Sports & physical culture	—	5
Problems of landless & people's planning	1	—
Development of local organisation and leadership	5	—
Development motivation & leadership	4	—
Management of rural projects	18	—
Development of managerial skills	2	—
Development journalism	2	—
Project preparation & budgeting	3	—
Information flow system	5	—

LAND DEVELOPMENT/SOIL MANAGEMENT

Area	Acres	Families benefitted
Mayurbhanj	260	303
Purulia	43	51

AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

Area	Area (in acres)	Farmers covered
Mayurbhanj	276	1611
Purulia	108	300

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Area	Area (in acres)	People Covered
Mayurbhanj	43	184
Purulia	9	12

HORTICULTURE

Area	Plants (nos)	Families covered
Mayurbhanj	5182	660
Purulia	2350	650

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families benefitted
Pisciculture	5	112
Sericulture	8	8
Poultry	24	2
Animal husbandry	922	186
Weaving	4	24
Rope making	13,600 Kgs	15
Leaf plate making	1	15
Broom making	1	14
Bamboo crafts	1	5
Rice business & storage	5	30
Grain bank	16	221
Mahua bank	9	126
Tamarind bank	1	7
Cowpea bank	2	35

BURDWAN PROJECTS

Over 1300 families received agricultural assistance

Burdwan Projects, during 1986, witnessed the rapid transition of the people's planning process from the hesitant exploratory stages to being the quintessential element of development activities. The process having acquired new dimensions as well as greater depth, meaning and wider participation, led to the formation of a two tier village structure in all project villages.

At the grassroot level are the functional groups, composed mainly of landless or landpoor entrepreneurs, homogenous in character and each following a common economic pursuit and the other is the village committee acting as the coordinating body in each hamlet. The latter looks after the interest of both the organised sector and the remaining individual families not associated with the functional groups as well as coordinates social and physical development of the village as a whole.

The village committees, displaying greater consciousness regarding their role, played significant parts in giving shape to the development activities. Along with the realisation of the need for analytical and methodical approach to planning and decision making, there has been an increasing awareness of people's own inherent power. This assertion of people's power translated into constructive and creative action has resulted in the elimination of the inefficient and the self-seeking, thus invigorating the community organisations and making them truly representative bodies that help to concretise the ambitions and aspirations of the people. With the reconstitution of further 6 village committees, representing 6 villages, committees in almost all 42 villages have undergone changes since initiation of the people's planning process in 1984.

In their endeavour for progress, communities have prepared social plans which would benefit the whole community or a sizeable section of the community, and economic plans for generation of additional income for either individual families or group of homogenous families having the same avocation. These elaborate plans attach first priority to schemes designed for the most underprivileged segments, provide justification, state objectives and are very often supported by statistical data and analysis of the existing situation.

An inspiring example of the community's spirit of sharing and concern for the underprivileged is available from the village of Andharsuli, where a few relatively better off families pooled their resources together, purchased and donated some land for excavation of an irrigation tank. The marginal farmers benefitting from this irrigation infrastructure have shared a part of their holdings with the landless for cultivation. The community has also organised a group of landless youth to utilise the water area for fish farming. Further emphasising their sincerity and resolve, the donors, in consultation with the village organisation, have voluntarily sought binding legal approval for these steps in order to ensure the permanence of rights.

People's plans have stressed the need for creation of irrigation infrastructure to reduce uncertainities resulting from total dependence on monsoon for cultivation. Major activities during the year included laying of pipelines for carrying irrigation water from perennial sources, excavation of tanks as well as installation of persian wheels-animal powered water lifting devices. Irrigation capacity created during the year has brought 85 acres of land, belonging to 90 families of small and marginal farmers under assured irri-

gation. Assured sources of irrigation have also enabled farmers to grow a second crop during winter.

Although the total precipitation during the year was only 5.02 percent less than the normal average rainfall, the uneven distribution and prolonged spells of drought, evident from the figure of 10.9 mm. rainfall as against 5 years average of 80.72 mm during peak paddy transplanting season, not only damaged the newly transplanted paddy but also prevented people from cultivating their total land holdings. However, the rains between the latter half of July and September helped the planted crops to recover.

The situation described above not only underscores the need for concerted efforts to develop irrigation but also illustrates the unpredictability of monsoons as well as its influence on people's lives and the economy.

During the year, LWS extended material support in the form of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to 1311 farmers for cultivating an area of 396 acres. Other agriculture related activities included provision of simple equipments and draught animals to small and marginal farmers. Agriculture tools and equipments have been provided to 5 small functional groups of 17 marginal farmers who apart from using these on their own fields, hire them out to others to supplement their meagre earnings. In order to encourage the use of farm yard manure and compost for improving soil condition, three improved manure pits were constructed during the year as means of demonstration.

Introduction of high yielding varieties, constant motivation, village level agricultural training programs for the farmers at the beginning of each season as well as sustained guidance and on field demonstrations by LWS resource personnel have resulted in the adoption of scientific and improved packages of agricultural practices, and have increased crop yields. Stress on soil testing for identifying and rectifying nutrient deficiency through application of appropriate dosages of fertilisers led to the analysis of 86 soil samples, further improving conditions for increased productivity.

Increase in yield per acre vis-a-vis local varieties & traditional practice:

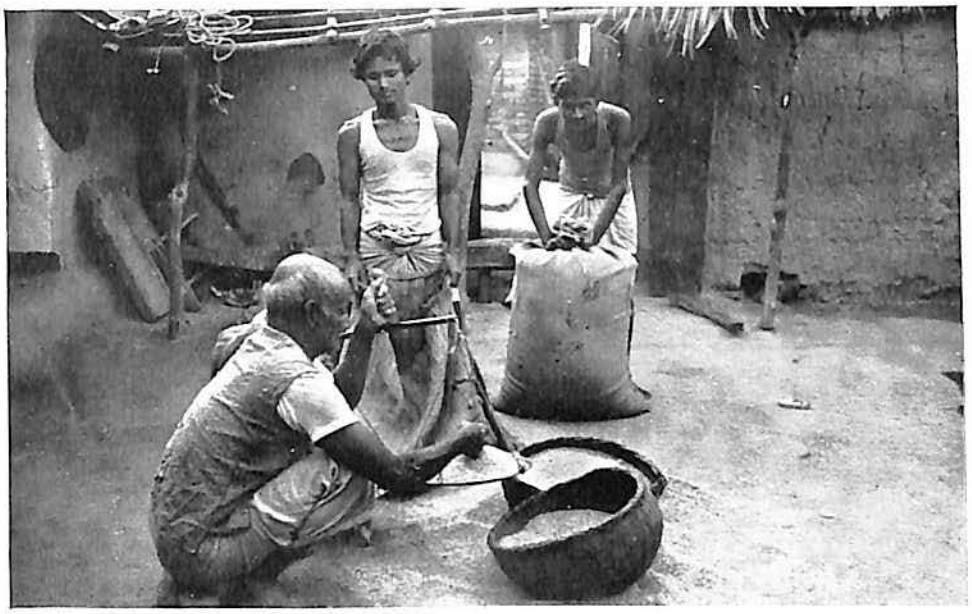
Crops harvested during 1986	% increase
Mustard	48
Wheat	62
Potato	86
Summer Paddy	44
Winter Paddy	59

Demonstration has been effectively used as a tool for disseminating information on improved agricultural practices, to improvise new techniques, to present technologies in a form that suits the target population's environment and capabilities as well as to identify new viable crops suitable to the local conditions. Fourteen plots of land belonging to small and marginal farmers were adopted to demonstrate superior techniques of cultivating high yielding varieties of paddy. The demonstration was highly successful with an average yield of 15 percent over the normal yields for high yielding varieties.

Demonstration was organised on cultivation of cluster beans, soya beans and mustard. While cluster beans and soya beans have high nutritive value, mustard has high market value as an edible oil seed and all three crops require very little irrigation, making these highly suitable for the area.

Kitchen garden promoted in the earlier years, remain highly popular among housewives, who realising the potential of kitchen gardens for enriching daily diets, eradicating

Assured sources of irrigation and improved practices have increased crop yields



Grain banks for reducing indebtedness

nutritional deficiencies among children as well as augmenting family incomes, continue to preserve seeds to grow more and more vegetables. During the year, fresh inputs in the form of vegetable seeds and seedlings were distributed among nearly 500 families spread over 20 hamlets. In addition, about 1500 saplings of different fruit plants were distributed among 255 families for planting on homestead plots.

Under the social forestry program, more than nine acres of hitherto unutilised barren high land have been planted with 2820 saplings of trees that will provide food, fuel and fodder.

During the year, 100 landless families, 50 marginal farmers and a few small farmers were provided material inputs to enable them to engage in more dignified and profitable ventures. These include semi-mechanical rice processing units, livestock rearing, village crafts, beekeeping as well as petty business.

Collaboration with panchayats–elected local self governing bodies–and other government agencies, has been particularly significant in these activities. Accepting and using people's plans as the basis, these agencies have, during the year, extended material support to 68 families. These families, assisted under Government's Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) as well as Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) schemes, have been provided soft term loans, grants and material inputs for livestock and poultry rearing, fish farming, petty business, development of village crafts as well as for purchase of bullock carts, sewing machines and rickshaw vans.

Several village artisans, who were previously manufacturing and marketing their wares individually, were organised into functional groups for strengthening their trading activities. While some members of two such groups received assistance from LWS, others were provided inputs by government agencies under IRDP scheme. Collective functioning, while enhancing their holding and bargaining capacity, has helped to raise their earnings by 60 percent to 100 percent.

Other functional groups have also been organised around activities such as pisciculture, maintenance and operation of irrigation tubewells and lift irrigation facilities as well as other agriculture related services. Particularly noteworthy are the functional groups of landless and landpoor families, equipped with plant protection and other implements. These implements, while opening new avenues of additional income for the recipient groups, have enabled the farmers to adopt improved, efficient, economical techniques of crop protection and post harvest operations.

As a result of the drought and ensuing periods of uneven rainfall, water tables in most of the wells and tubewells went down, creating acute scarcity of safe drinking water. In order to ensure adequate supply of potable water, 5 new wells were excavated and 11 tubewells sunk benefitting approximately 467 families. A large number of existing tubewells and wells were resunk and deepened to provide crop saving water. The local panchayats collaborated by extending similar support to other groups of target population.

An all-weather approach road, measuring half kilometre with culverts at vantage points, was constructed in a tribal hamlet, directly benefitting 41 families. With the Panchayat bearing a major share of the construction costs, this road construction scheme is another example of participatory and collaborative efforts.

Construction of 4 multipurpose centres to provided the communities a common meeting place and a centre for holding socio-cultural activities. The multipurpose centres have also proved particularly useful as meeting place for functional groups, women's organisations and mothers committees. The multipurpose centres house the rural libraries, grain banks as well as accommodate the non-formal education centres.

In the sphere of non-formal education, 28 centres were operated which imparted literacy to 366 men and 85 women. During the latter part of the year, operational responsibility for the non-formal education centres was transferred to the village committees, making the non-formal education process more participatory and community based.

Six rural libraries, one each for clusters of 6-8 hamlets are being established as part of the efforts to provide continuing support to the users of non-formal education centres. These libraries stocked with simple books on different subjects relevant to the people's lives and environment are envisaged to accelerate the process of education for development, and the growth of self-reliance through self-help.

Trainings, Workshops and Seminars, another facet of the non-formal education process elicited keen interest from the communities. Three hundred and seventynine members of the target population participated in 21 such programs on subjects such as improved agricultural practices, horticulture, livestock management, beekeeping, community health and development. Members of the project team, apart from participating in these programs along with target groups, underwent training on preparation of audio-visual aids to strengthen the education process and application of statistical methods of data collection and analysis.

Thirteen youth clubs, 6 drama groups and one women's organisation are functioning within the target villages. The youth clubs and drama groups play a very significant role in trying to bring about a social change in the rural life. Through the medium of dramas and role plays, these groups and associations of similar nature, composed of young people, highlight social problems, the state of the exploited, their superstitions and ignorance. Thirty such plays staged over the year generated widespread enthusiam among people.

Community health activities continued to stress on preventive and promotive aspects of health care, ante-natal and post-natal care, immunisation against preventable diseases as well as nutritional education. Increasing acceptance of these measures provide ample evidence of the attitudinal changes occuring among people. Training on health and health related matters organised for the mothers as well as others, elicited spontaneous and highly encouraging response.

A sample survey was conducted on the daily average dietary intake of the target groups. The survey revealed that a little over 67 percent of the people suffer from protein energy malnutrition.

'National Nutrition Week' observed from May 1—7, in coordination with Food & Nutrition Board, Government of India, highlighted the importance of balanced diet and the nutritional value of common local pulses and vegetables. Exhibitions, discussions, slide and puppet shows as well as practical demonstrations on preparation of inexpensive but nutritive recipes with locally available as well as cultivable vegetables and other agricultural products were held in seven villages where more than 2300 people from 27 hamlets participated.

Women's NFE class in progress

Youth in the vanguard of social change

A "competition on baby care" was also held at the Central Project Complex, in which 22 mothers with babies from 7 hamlets participated. Babies were assessed for their nutritional as well as immunisation status, general health and cleanliness.

Impoverished target population, particularly the landless and the marginal farmers are compelled to borrow for sustenance during lean periods of employment. Meetings and other forms of motivation over a period of time prompted the people to establish grain banks, as means for reducing the target population's indebtedness to money-lenders. Of the 17 existing grain banks in 17 hamlets, 13 such banks with a total stock of over 17 MT. of paddy were organised by the people on their own through voluntary contributions of paddy. The other four banks were formed with initial capital assistance of 7.5 MT. of grain from LWS.

Subsequently, the entire quantity of paddy was also disbursed as loans to the most needy—invariably the landless and the marginal farmers—providing for their primary need during the lean employment season. Successful realisation of the loans with moderate rates of interests ensured the steady growth and multiplication of the banks.

Likewise, with growing appreciation of the dynamics of planning for themselves, the concept of capital formation has captivated the communities' imagination. Not so long ago the concept seemed alien and beyond their powers of comprehension. For the vast and silent majority their destiny was never in doubt— the equation between the haves and the have nots were preordained or so it seemed.

Yet, now within a short span of two years, new symbols of hope have emerged.

Creation of their own banks in the form of Village Revolving Funds had a catalytic effect on the ethos of these capital starved communities. People's perception of their own roles has undergone a sea change. From being participants in the development process, they now stand on the threshold of being managers of their own affairs.

By the end of the year, all the 42 village committees had established their community banks and some had even initiated the process of recycling the funds amongst the most needy for productive purposes.

For the people in the sleepy hamlets of Jangal Mahal, the happenings of the past few years represent empowerment, awakening and a new dawn.

AGRICULTURE

Type	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers	Level of Participation (in percent)	
			People	L.W.S.
Harvested Crops	226	799	82	18
Standing Crops	170	512	—	—

AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

Cropping season	Number of Plots	Villages Covered
Monsoon	23	9
Winter	7	7

CROP PROTECTION

Type	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers Benefitted
Pesticides	30.6	82

KITCHEN GARDEN

Type of Crop	Acres	People
Vegetables	25	473

HORTICULTURE

Number of Saplings	1488
Families Benefitted	255

SOCIAL FORESTRY

Number of Saplings	2820
Acreage covered	9

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit
Drinking Water Tubewell	25
Drinking Water Well	15
Platform Construction & Repair	11
Net Cover & Hand Pumps in Well	14
Irrigation Channel	1
Tank	1
Persian Wheel Bucket Fitting	1
Improved Manure Pits	3
School	1
Multipurpose Centre	4
Culvert	10
Road	2.5 km
Village Industry Shed	1

NON FORMAL EDUCATION

No. of Centres	28
Student Strength	448

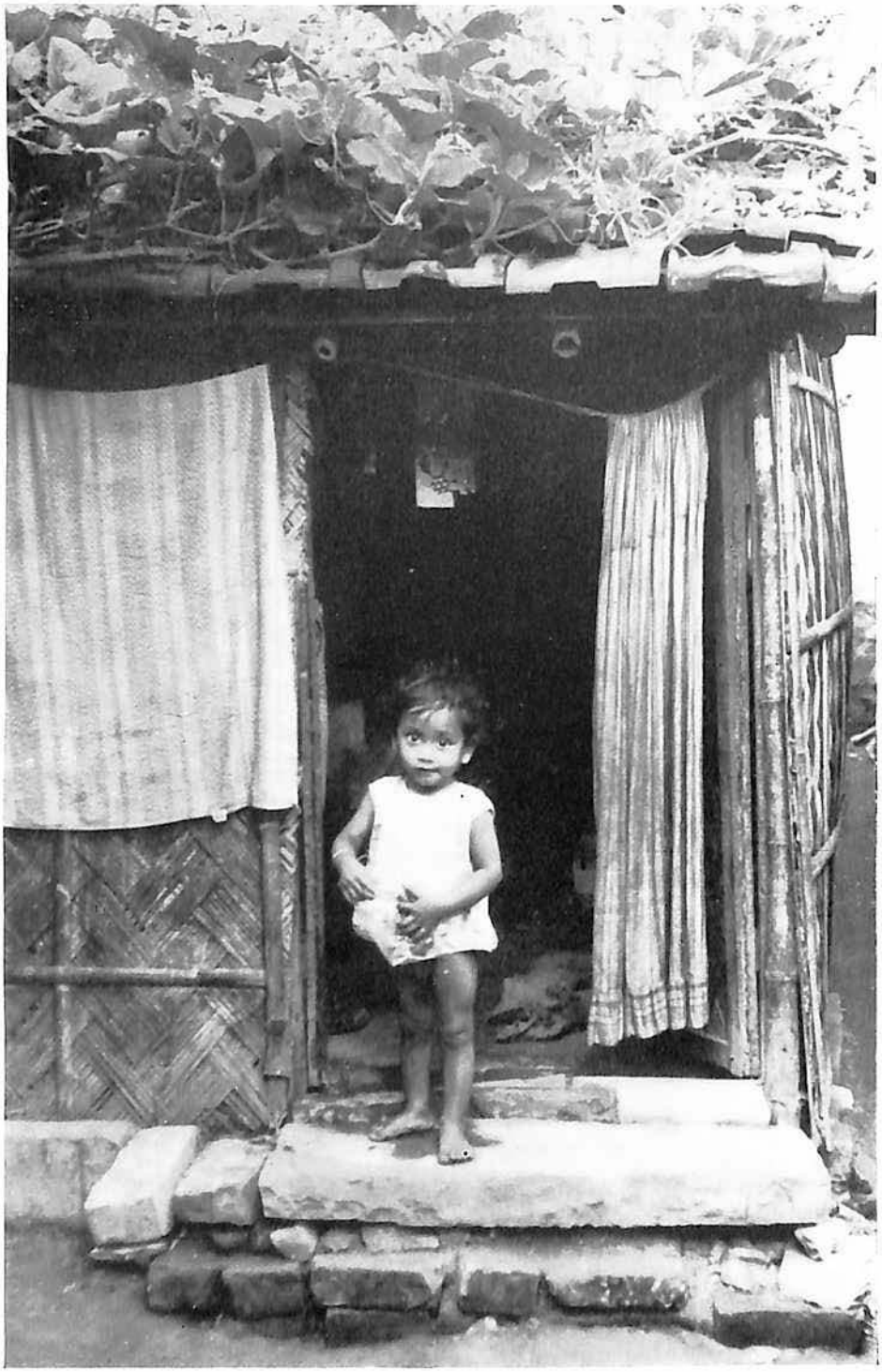
TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
Agriculture	37	213
Horticulture	5	30
Bee-keeping	2	26
Livestock Management	—	20
Repair & Maintenance of Pumpsets	—	21
Repair of Hand Pump	2	7
Theatre Workshop	8	24
Audio-Visual Aids	2	—
Community Health & Development	12	35
Statistics	14	—
Sports & Physical Culture	—	3

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families Benefitted
Animal Husbandry	552	112
Village Craft	6	6
Petty Trade	3	3
Wooden Cart	1	1
Custom Service	5	17
Grain Banks	4	121
Paddy Processing	5	5

CALCUTTA PROJECTS



Settlements inhabited by the underprivileged are bereft of public utilities and services.

Nestling on the banks of river Hooghly, serviced by vast and fertile hinterlands, the city of Calcutta metamorphosed into a commercial capital buzzing with frenzied activity. Presently the city provides sustenance to more than 10 million people. The illusion of the city's limitless ability to absorb and sustain exerted a near magnetic pull on the impoverished landless and unemployed rural populace. Consequently, chasing their dreams, generations of migrants and refugees streamed into the metropolis in hope of a better tomorrow. However, the city's prosperity got caught in apparently irreconcilable political and social forces resulting in a stagnant economy and perceptible drop in employment opportunities. Worst hit were the 3 million or so disorganised and unskilled urban poor whose number continues to grow.

Most of the settlements inhabited by the underprivileged are bereft of public utilities and services. The environments are extremely depressing with poor ventilation, inadequate sewerage and potable water supply as well as irregular facilities for collection and disposal of waste and garbage. Incidence of child labour coupled with inadequate educational facilities account for low levels of literacy and earning opportunities. It is to this section of approximately 100,000 people that Calcutta Projects extend services.

The Calcutta Projects of LWS comprise of three service centres situated at different locations within the city. While the Entally centre is in the heart of the city, the Salt Lake and Ultadanga units are locat-

ed on the eastern and northern perimeters of the metropolis.

Functioning since 1976, the Calcutta Projects continue to initiate and promote multifarious development activities which are implemented with the co-operation of banks, government and semi-government institutions and multiple local welfare organisations. Non-formal education, primary schools, community health education, vocational training schemes for promotion of employment and income generation and a night shelter for destitutes at Ultadanga are some of the major activities.

The project caters to the educational needs of pre-school children

The multi-faceted education process endeavours to reach out and encompass all segments of the communities. Evolution of the non-formal education programme can be traced to the first schools for the children of pavement and embankment dwellers. Currently, these schools are managed by a voluntary body formed by the staff of these schools and other like-minded citizens. The socio-economic background of the students compels them to look for employment from early childhood. However, due to abysmal lack of education and training, employment opportunities are limited and incomes meagre. Against this back drop LWS continues to make efforts to give them a better start in life. In 1986, 1200 children of school-going age have received such education in 29 schools.

Non-formal education also fills the vital gap in the lives of illiterate adults and working children, whose need for improved functional know-how cannot be covered by formal set-up. NFE centres are the nodal points for the ill-informed and deprived, discouraged and disorganised population to equip themselves with the knowledge of letters and functional skill. These centres instill self-confidence and motivate men and women to organise themselves. Twenty one NFE centres with 491 registered students are run by Calcutta Projects. Considering the significance of female literacy in the development process, efforts have been initiated to meet their exclusive needs.

In its efforts to cater to the educational needs of pre-school children, centres have been operating at Ultadanga, Salt Lake and Entally Complex. These centres not only impart sound basic education supplemented with maximum possible use of teaching aids, but also attempt to develop positive personality traits like self-confidence and self-reliance. Qualities of leadership, team spirit and personal discipline are instilled in the child through various kinds of group activities. Development of talents in the sphere of creative arts like painting, singing, dancing, play-acting also receive emphasis and figure in the school curriculum. Further, to develop a sense of national pride and broaden the child's mental horizon, educational tours were organised to places of historical importance. A follow-up of students who underwent schooling here reveals that most of them have joined various other schools in pursuit of further education.

Greater heights have been scaled in the development process by the establishment of two pre-primary education centres at Basantidevi colony and Naobhanga of Dhapa area. These pre-primary schools and Balwadis are the concrete expressions of peoples' participation and heightened awareness about the need for education. Soliciting and accepting minimal co-operation from the project, the local committees appointed teachers for these centres from their own localities and share instructors' fees, provide space, teaching aids as well as monitor the progress.

In the sphere of Vocational Training which represents a major activity of the urban projects, a lot of thought goes into designing and formulating

the course contents. Keeping in view the socio-economic viability, trades and professions are selected which are self-supporting, with scope for expansion and diversification and having high job potentiality. These include a wide range of subjects like automobile repairing, carpentry, domestic electric wiring, tailoring, weaving, needle work, fabric painting, radio and television repairing, cycle repairing, batik and block printing and knitting.

While importance is given to training programmes conducted among the communities to ensure maximum participation, training in disciplines requiring special facilities and inputs are organised at the three service centres as well as at other institutions. Candidates for these vocational training programmes are screened taking into account their educational status. Aptitude, and personality tests are conducted by professionals in the field of applied psychology. This approach ensures the best possible combination of people and subjects. During 1986, Salt Lake, Ultadanga and Entally organised 42 vocational training programmes and imparted training to 671 literate and semi-literate youth.

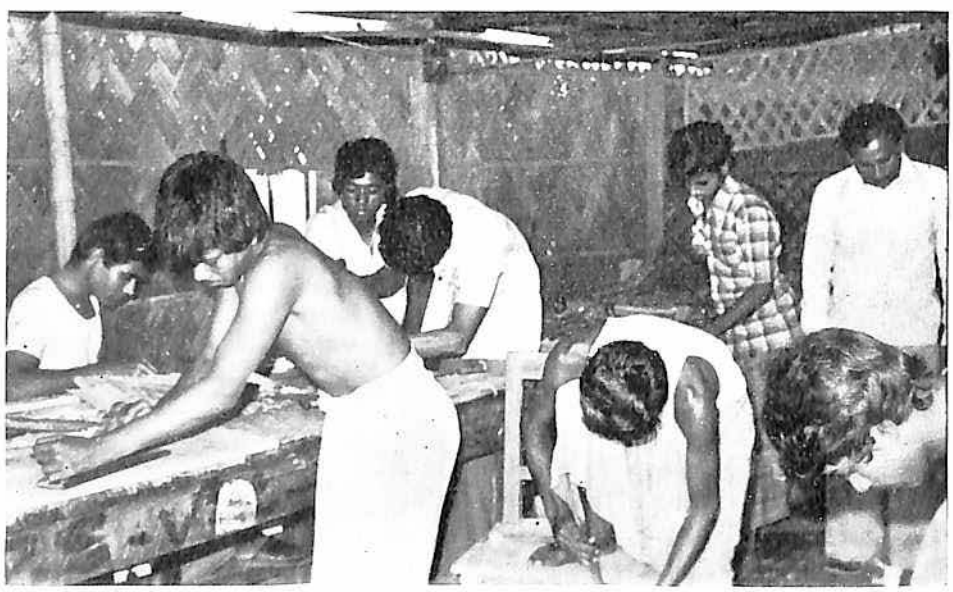
These training programmes conducted on the principles of TST (Training, Stipend and Tools) impart skills to the unskilled and equip them with basic tools as well as arrange working capital as required on completion of training. Sample surveys carried out on the post training activities of trainees reveal a very encouraging picture. More than 70 percent of the ex-trainees were either self-employed or had been absorbed elsewhere.

In 1979, LWS inspired the women trainees at Entally to work collectively, under a single umbrella. This led to the formation of Self Employment Centre, with the prime objective of obtaining a steady source of income for the members. Taking a cue from this, a group of women came together to form the 'Multipurpose Handicraft Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.,' at Salt Lake in 1984. This venture was to enable the unemployed and underemployed women trainees to make optimum use of their talents and to undertake group based activities. Both these organizations engage in multiple income generating schemes like food catering services to other organisations as well as produce a wide variety of edible products such as jam, jelly, pickles, spices, condiments, papad et al. They also produce and market readymade garments including block and batik printed items, woolen and leather goods. During the year under review, these groups have had orders from among others, Red Cross Society and Khadi Board for various items. Exhibition cum sale of goods are also periodically organised for promoting sales.

Further, for the self-employed artisans in need of capital, LWS liaised with urban commercial banks to facilitate new loans as well as refinances to the extent of more than one million rupees to 497 people as soft term loans, at low rates of interest.

This measure has helped the underprivileged to overcome the constraints of working capital which was an impediment to growth in the past.

Highly structured and effective people's organisations of these communities have played a key role in promoting the involvement of local voluntary organisations, funding agencies and banks for all round development. Common interest groups have formed organisations which in turn are affiliated to central coordinating and apex bodies at the larger community level. These groups after scrutinising and varifying individual requirements, identify potential loanees as well as monitor the use and timely repayment of



Vocational training programmes impart skills to the unskilled

bank loans. After necessary assessment, these apex bodies place the needs of the community as a whole before the resource agencies to ensure maximum availability and optimum utilization of funds. The high loan recovery rates between 90-95 percent illustrates the dynamic nature of the community participation and the growth of individual as well as collective self-reliance.

At the initial stages, LWS played a major role in these transactions. Identifying people's needs, conveying these needs to appropriate quarters and establishing a link between sources of capital and the people was an important task. But, with the growth of self-supporting and organised community structures, LWS's liaising role has gradually diminished.

More than 70 percent of the ex-trainees are gainfully occupied

To bring about an integrated and all-round development of the people, a multi-dimensional approach is essential. Education and training for income generation are but two aspects of people's development. This section of population is plagued with constant diseases and ill-health due to poor sanitary conditions and inadequacy of safe drinking water. Hence, health needs represent an equally important area of concern for the urban poor.

The community health clinics at Entally, Ultadanga and Salt Lake address to the primary health needs of the people. The Health Team focuses attention on preventive, promotive and curative aspects of health through immunization, provision of nutritional supplements, mother and child health care, and family welfare. For promoting health awareness among the people, health personnel including community volunteers go from door to door and discuss with the family members about health, environmental sanitation, low cost balanced diet, infant feeding, family welfare measures, spacing of births, breast feeding and personal hygiene. Special attention is given to children under six as well as school going children. While Balwadi (child day care centres) and pre-primary centres established in the project areas cater to the educational as well as the health needs of the pre-school and school-going children, mother and child health clinics provide care to mothers as well as infants.

Training programmes and demonstration camps on nutrition and improved techniques of cooking that preserve the nutritional content of food have been organised for mothers. In collaboration with Food and Nutrition Board, Government of India, 'Food and Nutrition' camps were organised in different locations for the target population, to promote health awareness among the vulnerable groups.

In collaboration with the State Government, the housing resettlement programme at Salt Lake has worked towards providing permanent shelter to 1500 pavement and embankment dwellers. Sections of this population, resettled in the second phase, continue to receive support in the form of health facilities, skill formation, income generating schemes, non-formal and primary education and other development activities.

Further, Salt Lake Project has broadened its area of operation to include those communities living adjacent to the housing resettlement. These areas which form the geographical boundaries of the metropolis are totally rural in outlook and yet have been deprived of the benefits of both rural as well as urban development schemes. The problems and needs of these communities are more complex by comparison.

ENTALLY

EDUCATION

	Roll strength	Successful students
Formal	245	215
	Number of centres	Student strength
Non-formal	9	269

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained	Under training
Tailoring	77	10
Needle work & embroidery	53	—
Knitting	21	—
Machine embroidery	—	10
Batik	13	—
Block printing	7	—
Raincoat stitching	4	—
Automobile pump & generator	—	3
Airconditioning & refrigeration	6	—
T.V. & radio	—	17
Motor driving	35	—
Total	216	40

Health clinics provide special care to mothers and infants

The need for socio-economic integration of the new settlers with the old residents became imperative and LWS with active cooperation and collaboration of Panchayats and other rural as well as urban development bodies and the people, initiated development activities among the communities of 'Mahisbathan' and 'Dhapa' areas.

The plight of the shelterless pavement dwellers has been a cause of concern for the civic authorities of Calcutta. To this effect, a night shelter, run by LWS within the primary school premises at Ultadanga has been functioning successfully and has provisions for sheltering 140 people. The occupants are provided the basic facilities of simple community bedding, bathing places and toilets.

Residents of squatter settlements and slums face innumerable hardships. For the majority, mere day-to-day existence is a treacherous uphill task with no easy solutions in sight. To usher in a more just social order, government, non-government agencies and peoples' organisations at all levels must be involved and prepared to pool in their resources and expertise. Therefore, with the community at the centre of continuing series of expanding welfare measures, LWS, with support from government and other institutions endeavours to bring about integrated and broad based development.

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
NFE teachers training	—	11
Montessori teachers training	3	1
Media workshop	—	2
Information Flow System	3	—

BANK LOAN

Loan amount (in Rupees)	Families covered
357,764	236

ULTADANGA

EDUCATION

	Roll strength	Successful students
Formal	345	184
	Number of centres	Student strength
Non-formal	10	186

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained
Tailoring	38
Stitching of hosiery goods	6
Radio & transistor repair	15
T.V. servicing	10
Electrical wiring	14
Kits alignment	10
Speaker alignment	9
Electrical Appliances repair	10
Cardboard box mfg.	8
Woodwork	6
Plumbing	10
Potteries	6
Traditional Handicrafts	14
Typewriting	8
Motor driving	30
Motorcycle & scooter repairing	6
Nurses Aide	10
Total	210

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
NFE teachers training	1	9
Montessori teachers training	4	4
Audio-visual-aids	2	1
Media Workshop	—	11
Audit and accounts	—	1
Information Flow system	8	—
Development motivation	1	—
Role of women in 'bustee' development	1	2
Community Health & Development	—	5

ULTADANGA

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit
Tubewell	6
Underground water supply	1
Drainage	1
Renovation of School	4
Renovation of non-formal education centre	1
Renovation of Multi-purpose centre	4

BANK LOAN

Loan Amount (in Rupees)	Families covered
446,200	119

SALT LAKE

EDUCATION

	Roll strength	Successful students
Formal	286	220
	Number of centres	Student strength
Non-formal	2	36

BALWADI

	Number of centres	Children
Balwadi	2	143

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit
Tubewell	17
Vocational Training Centre	1

SALT LAKE

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Subject	Number trained	Under training
Tailoring	48	16
Machine embroidery	7	—
Machine knitting	6	—
Advanced tailoring	3	—
Electrical machine embroidery	—	4
Block/silk screen	1	—
Commercial art	3	—
Advanced Batik	5	—
Radio & T.V.	—	10
Electrical & allied	18	20
Sewing machine repair & maintenance	2	—
Motor driving	20	—
Poultry	34	—
Food preparation & preservation	2	—
Leather craft	4	—
Midwife	2	—
Total	155	50

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
NFE teachers training	—	5
Montessori teachers training	2	2
Beekeeping	1	2
Food & Nutrition	7	68
Information Flow System	2	—
Role of women in 'bustee' development	—	2
Child development	2	—
Co-operative Administration	6	21

BANK LOANS

Loan Amount (in Rupees)	Families covered
259,082	142

ON-SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Calcutta like any other major industrial city has been a beacon of hope to the impoverished masses of rural India. Successive waves of migrants including peasants, unemployed youth, refugees and victims of natural calamities have found their way into the city. The arrival of this predominantly unskilled labour force has reduced employment opportunities, depressed wages and incomes while stretching the housing and other related urban amenities to their limits.

The uncertainties of their situation compell the city-bound migrants fleeing from poverty or from the ravages of war to direct all energy, effort and time towards securing employment and livelihood. Quality of housing and other amenities remain a secondary concern. A place to sleep and store their meagre belongings close to the job market is more important than the quality of services and facilities. While the luckier ones found accommodation in the crowded existing shanty towns, others squatted on whatever vacant plot of land they chanced upon.

By 1981, the population of such settlements in Calcutta had risen to more than 3 million, spread over nearly 3000 settlements and represented approximately 35 percent of the urban population.

Migrants and squatters have evoked varying responses in the minds of the planners and approaches to their problems have also differed. Eradication of these settlements and construction of alternate shelters were once considered feasible. The enormous requirement of resources

The condition of squatters has remained largely unchanged

for meeting the accumulated shortage of housing and other infrastructure proved this approach impractical.

Improved shelters constructed according to normal urban standards proved far too expensive, putting these beyond the means of the vast majority of the population for whom these were constructed. More over, the transfer to multistorey tenements often created social adjustment problems for the first and second generation migrants accustomed to living closer to the ground.

Despite numerous schemes and several legislations, the squatters and their situation have remained unchanged to a large extent. Land, which is of central importance, has been a major source of problems. Most of the shanty towns and similar settlements of Calcutta are on privately owned lands, giving rise to complex legal problems.

Questionable success of the earlier attempts; the need for developing greater understanding of the major areas of constraints; creation of effective and easily replicable models as well as solutions, resulted in Government's request to LWS to undertake pilot projects in two such settlements.

Khudirampally, the larger of the two settlements has a population of approximately 2000, consisting mainly of refugees from East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Their search for a place took the community from canal embankments to railway embankments and ultimately to the present location on the northern periphery of the city. The community comprising of 328 families have squatted on private land measuring approximately 7 acres.

Dasnagar, the second settlement is situated in the industrial suburb of Howrah, west of Calcutta. The 71 families of this settlement comprises of schedule castes and tribes who were induced to migrate to Calcutta by an industrialist for whom they represented cheap source of labour. While the industries thrived, they were allowed to build their hutments around the factory premises. With the closure of the factories, their status changed to illegal occupants of privately owned land.

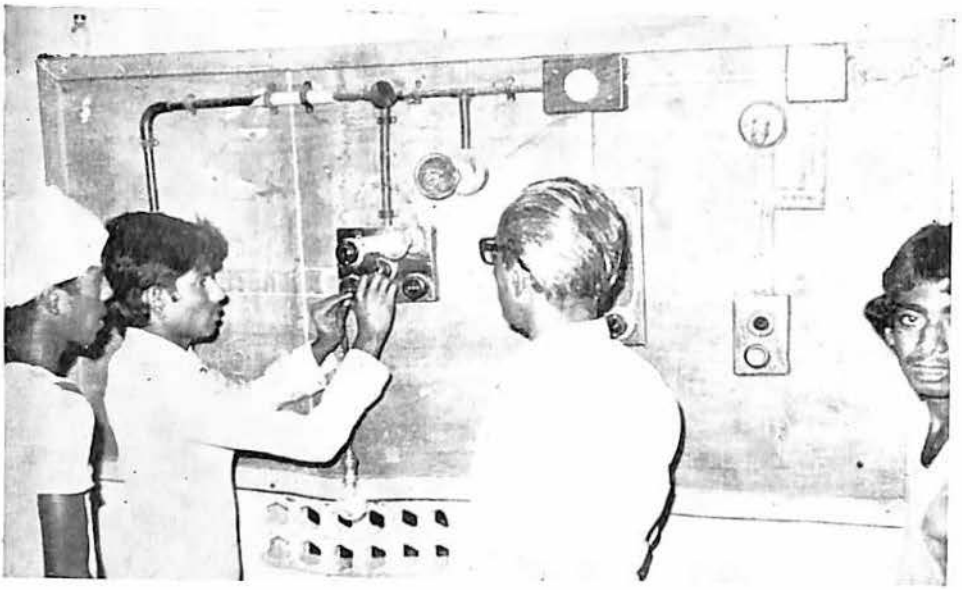
NFE—a vital component of the project

The project initiated with the full support of Government, aims at creating a cleaner and healthier living environment. The project components include provision of adequate quantities of safe drinking water, construction of drains, sewerage as well as sanitary latrines. Construction of roads, pathways and other community facilities are also envisaged. Technical inputs for designing new schemata to ensure optimum land utilization is an area of major emphasis. Vocational training programmes; schemes for increasing and generating additional family incomes; community oriented health services and non-formal education facilities repesent the present areas of activities.

Efforts are directed towards assisting each family to identify housing related needs and problems in order to develop shelters appropriate to needs and which commensurate with their economic conditions. Each house will ultimately reflect the economic condition of the family and its ability to mobilise resources. Hence encouraging the people to choose shelters that match their situation, yet with potential for growth and development to suit the future changes in needs and conditions will be a prime objective. This approach is also expected to reduce the possibilities of the houses passing into the hands of economically better segments of the urban society, as had occurred in earlier upgradation projects.

These two pilot projects conforming to national as well as local strategies for upgradation of squatter colonies, thus, have three basic elements. While security of tenure and improvement of physical condi-

tions and basic amenities constitute the first two elements, people's involvement and self help towards bringing about and maintaining improved civic amenities is the third and most vital aspect. High degree of peoples participation, involvement and self help can be ensured through ownership of land. Ownership of land removes the ignominy and insecurity associated with their present status and restores dignity and confidence. It also assures the individuals the benefit of their investments in rebuilding their homes. It further enhances their eligibility for availing loans from banks, cooperatives and credit societies. Families will be far more concerned with improvement and maintenance if they have participated in building the amenities and if they are assured of continuing possession.



Subjects selected for training have high job potentiality

As anticipated, acquisition and transfer of ownership of land has proved the major stumbling block both at Khudirampally and Dasnagar. Land acquisition procedures, within the democratic frame work, are lengthy, cumbersome and time consuming. Several government departments are usually involved in any such operation. The normally lengthy procedures have been further prolonged and complicated as a result of litigation instituted by the original owners of the land. Land acquisition procedures have thus got caught in a web of legalities with the issue moving from one court of law to another.

In order to extricate the situation from the complex maze of litigation, high degrees of coordination, persuasion and persistence have been necessary on the part of the people, the government and LWS. As a result, during the year, a major part of the land at Khudirampally as well as at Dasnagar have been freed from litigation. Acquisition process has also been initiated for the remaining part of the land.

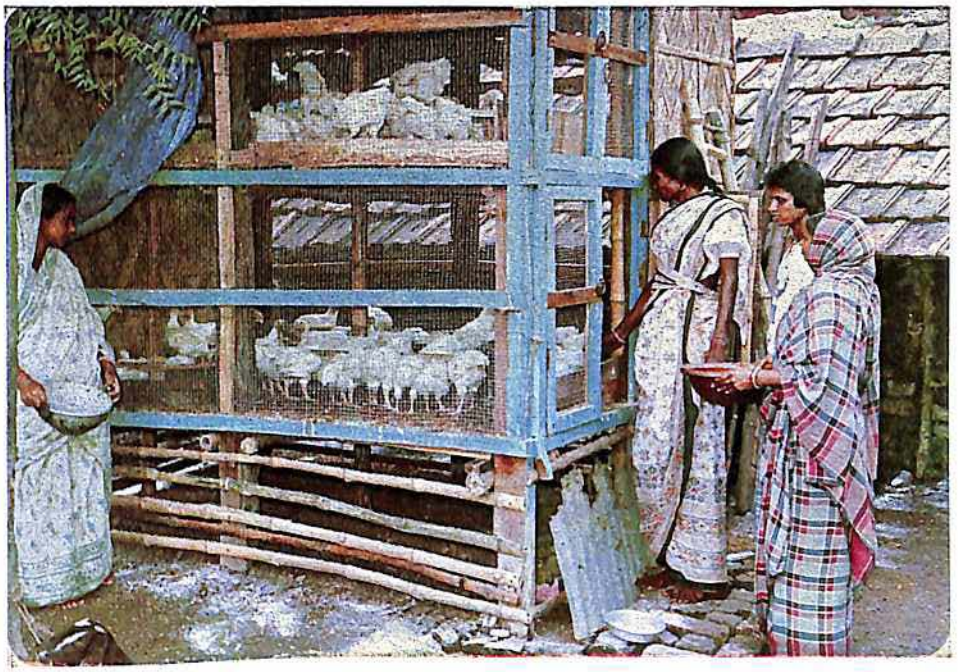
Land acquisition problems, while delaying the development of amenities, have had a positive impact on strengthening the relation among people, government and LWS. Government's positive response to people's needs, while increasing their trust in the participatory approach to problem solving, has also reinforced faith in the power of collective action. LWS' intervention at different stages with resources and expertise has increased the people's as well as the Government's faith in LWS' capabilities, ideologies and methodologies. Land disputes have also enhanced the communities' spirit of togetherness and have cemented further the intra community relationships. Though most of the land is free of litigation and available for development, the communities of Khudirampally and Dasnagar have voluntarily accepted that no development will be undertaken till land occupied by every member of the community is available, free of litigation.

Government support and cooperation has been available in other spheres of activities also. A very highly placed city planning and development professional from Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority has, in an honorary capacity, assumed responsibility for designing new lay out and location plans, for optimising utilization of land, particularly, at Khudirampally. During the course of the year, several such plans were prepared. Each plan was presented to the community, who discussed and analysed the implication of the plans and also offered suggestions for modifications, based on sound considerations. The fourth and last plan thus pre-

pared during the year, reflects the needs and views expressed by the people and incorporate all additions and alterations recommended by them.

In the meantime activities pertaining to improvement of peoples economy, communities health, hygiene and education continued. To provide secure and remunerative avenues of employment that will augment family incomes and create conditions for maximum participation, a two-fold approach has been adopted. Vocational training programmes impart viable skills to the unemployed youth and subsequently equip them with necessary tools and instruments for self employment. Material and technical inputs are extended to the unemployed and the under employed for further enhancement of earnings. During 1986, Vocational Training in various disciplines was imparted to 26 youth (5 male and 21 women) of Khudirampally. Twenty seven young women of Dasnagar and neighbouring areas received training in tailoring and knitting. LWS has extended material assistance to 17 self employed people of Dasnagar.

LWS' involvement with Khudirampally, dates back to 1978, when community health, vocational training and income generating activities were initiated here as an extension of Calcutta Projects. Liaison work done by LWS during the early years has established a positive relationship between urban banks and the community. Urban Commercial banks have provided working capital loans at low rates of interest to 17 artisans and craftsmen of Khudirampally. Loan recovery rates amounting to 95 percent are highly encouraging.



Poultry rearing at Dasnagar—scheme specifically designed for women

Women have been the specific focus of some of the vocational training as well as income generating activities. Unlike the rural communities, where even unskilled women have some opportunities for earning, the mostly unskilled women of these communities in the urban milieu, have very little opportunities for earning with dignity. Schemes specifically designed for women, enable them to utilize their spare time fruitfully to supplement family incomes. Poultry rearing at Dasnagar, stitching of ready-made garments as well as manufacturing of decorative handicraft items at Khudirampally are a few examples of such successful schemes.

Four non-formal education centres, one for adult males, two for adult women and one for children functioned during the year at Dasnagar, benefitting 77 people. Paucity of space posed severe constraints during the implementation of non-formal education activities at Dasnagar. Three temporary structures built of bamboo and bamboo mats, during the year, accomodate the NFE classes as well as function as community centres. A local voluntary organisation operates a non-formal education centre at Khudirampally. In order to continue support to the users of NFE and to encourage youth activities, the community at Khudirampally was assisted to purchase books and furniture for community library as well as sports equipments. Several training workshops and seminars were organised during the year covering subjects such as 'Role of Women and Youth in Development', 'Concepts of Community Health' and similar subjects, in which 95 persons including staff and target population participated.

Severe floods and water-logging towards the fag end of monsoon necessitated LWS intervention with emergency relief materials, which among other things included supply of milk to children, medicines and vaccination to prevent out-break of epidemics. Sixteen families of Dasnagar were provided assistance to repair their dilapidated huts.

Community Health Clinics at Dasnagar and Khudirampally continue to address to the primary health needs of the population. Besides immunization, mother and child health care, family welfare and various health education measures, curative services for minor ailments and referral services are also extended. Community Health volunteers selected by the communities play a crucial role in health activities. A homeopathic health clinic established in collaboration with a Calcutta based medical college continues to complement the community health activities at Dasnagar. Homeopathic medicines, safe, economical, cost effective and especially efficacious among child population, have been widely accepted.

Training for income generation

During the year, 6 tubewells have been sunk at Khudirampally and three at Dasnagar to ensure supply of adequate quantities of safe drinking water.

Strong representative organisations continue to be active in both the communities. The community organisations, particularly of Khudirampally, have displayed strong initiative and dynamism towards solving the problems of the communities. The nucleus for a community fund has been established at Dasnagar, with approximately Rs. 4,600/- deposited in bank accounts.

Amidst the squalor and the unhygienic environment of the settlements, the community's new found confidence is phenomenal. The indignity of being illegal occipants, constantly hounded by the law and the original owners, no longer exists. A new pride of ownership and possession along with a sense of accomplishment is writ large over the faces of the people. A place of their own and may be new homes too, are now within their grasp. The upsurge of confidence and faith in the power of collective action guarantee that no matter what the problems are, they can be overcome.

KHUDIRAMPALLY

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained
Tailoring	6
Doll making	9
Traditional Handicrafts	6
Motor Driving	5

TRAINING WORKSHOP & SEMINARS (TWS)

Type	Staff	People
NFE teachers training	2	1
Information Flow system	1	—
Project Planning	2	4
Development Motivation	1	—
Community Health & Development	—	1

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit
Tubewell	6

BANK LOAN

Loan Amount (in Rupees)	People covered
32,600	17

DASNAGAR

EDUCATION

	Number of Centres	student strength
Non-formal	4	77

TRAINING WORKSHOP & SEMINARS (TWS)

Type	Staff	People
Poultry farming	2	4
NFE Teacher as Social Worker	—	8
Media	1	1
Information Flow System	6	—
Statistics	1	—
Accounts & Auditing	1	—
Project Planning	6	16
Landless	1	—
Community Leadership, Youth & rural development	1	2
Role of women in 'bustee' development	—	2
Development of local organisations & Leadership	2	—
Community Health & Development	—	2

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number Trained
Tailoring	17
Knitting & Tailoring	10

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families Covered
Poultry	2	2
Rickshaw	8	8
Cycle Van	1	1
Trolley Van	1	1
Meat Shop	1	2
Muri Business	1	1
Imitation Jewelery	1	1
Musical Instrument	1	1

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit
Tubewell	3
Multipurpose centre	3
House repair	16

MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS

In the predominantly agrarian economy of Murshidabad district, the paucity of land in proportion to the total population, resulting in the critically low land/man ratio represents the major obstacle in 'development' of the area. Nearly 50 percent of the total target population are landless and an almost equal proportion of marginal farmers account for barely 14 percent of the total agricultural land. Low incomes, seasonal employment compounded by low and exploitative wages, large families, lack of education and health facilities are some of the major problems of the area.

Transplanting paddy—the principal crop of the area

Murshidabad projects commenced with an Emergency nutrition programme in 1975 for 80,000 undernourished mothers and children affected by floods and erosion. The Project, at the further request of the State Government, undertook rehabilitation of landless/homeless agricultural labourers, as well as refugees and flood and erosion affected families. Over the years, 4256 such families were rehabilitated in 57 housing resettlements in the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia. During the first few years, efforts were concentrated on building up infrastructure facilities, skill formation and income generation programs, with a view to assisting these communities in building up a viable future. Gradual emergence of self reliant structures within these communities enabled LWS to phase out activities. Attempts to bring about greater socio-economic integration between the resettlements and the existing villages, resulted in the initiation of development activities during '84 in the largely drought prone Sagardighi block. With inclusion of 6 new villages during '86, development activities are under way in 20 villages of the block, covering a target population of approximately 15,000 people.

The year commenced with efforts to gain insight and deeper understanding of the needs and problems of the landless. In this context, a workshop was organised, which was attended by LWS staff, local government representatives as well as representatives from the villages, including the landless. Subsequently, a systematic village-wise study coupled with further staff training programmes were undertaken. Programme staff and the landless population collectively worked towards exploring both short and long-term solutions to the problems. The study revealed that, in order to ensure equitable distribution and better use of resources, the onus of identifying and selecting schemes should rest primarily with the target group itself, thereby stressing the need for increased peoples' participation and involvement in the development process.

Consequently, despite disagreement and opposition by sections of vested interests in the villages, efforts to involve the weakest received greater impetus.

Traditionally, for development planning, villages are divided into sectors consisting of 10-15 families, with representatives from each sector forming the village committee. Each sectoral group representative discusses and prepares development plans for the cluster of families he represents and submits these plans to the village committee.

On the basis of these plans, village committees prepare and share the

village development plan with LWS. Experience, however, revealed certain flaws in this structure and planning process, resulting in the projects search for viable alternatives. Since problems concerning the most underprivileged are often far too complex and deep rooted, village committees tend to overlook and side-step these issues for reasons of expediency. Hence, as an alternative, formation of smaller interest groups and bodies around viable economic activities received emphasis. This approach is expected to eventually create conditions for balanced growth and development of the community. Thus, while efforts to strengthen and promote peoples' organisations and group activities continued, strategies also underwent subtle changes in response to the new and challenging situation.

Severe drought resulting from inadequate and delayed monsoons adversely affects production of paddy, which remains the principal crop of the area. Despite erratic production and low returns from this crop, acute shortage of irrigation facilities and uneconomical land holding patterns have hindered adoption of the higher yielding varieties of paddy.

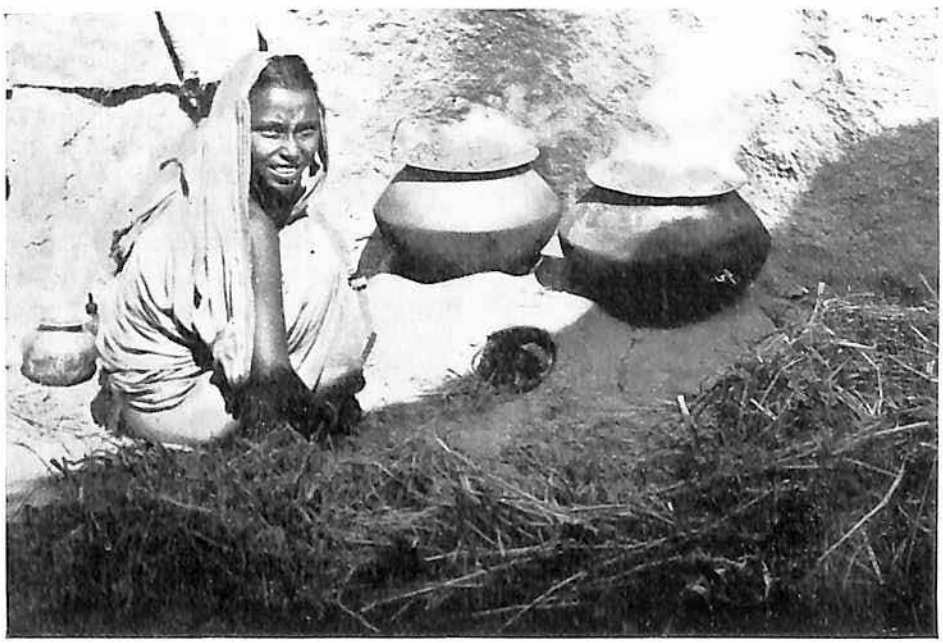
However, where conditions permitted, the project, through its agricultural extension services, succeeded in motivating farmers from 14 villages to cultivate HYV paddy. Both short and long duration varieties were introduced to suit the existing soil conditions, and in accordance with the available irrigation facilities. The 38 percent increase in per acre yield of the high yielding varieties vis-a-vis local strains has generated greater enthusiasm among farmers to adopt techniques for increased productivity. Agriculture assistance was also provided through seeds and fertilisers for cultivation of a wide variety of both major as well as minor crops, including a number of new crops. Assistance thus provided covered 730 acres benefitting 1324 farmers.

Assured irrigation is vital for the success of agricultural development in the program area where recurrent droughts adversely affect agricultural production, restrict innovative cropping patterns and intensity, as well as prevent adoption of improved agricultural practices. Shallow tubewells as a source of irrigation are considered ideal in context of the existing land holding pattern in the project area. The acute scarcity of land does not permit creation of any large or even medium scale irrigation infrastructure in the nature of irrigation tanks or reservoirs. Thus the 28 shallow tubewells sunk during '86 represent a great boon to the 250 small and marginal farmers assured of irrigation coverage for nearly 200 acres.

Increased consciousness about the importance of conserving soil fertility also led farmers to explore alternative crops to substitute mesta (highland) jute, since cultivation of this crop depletes the soil of its nutrients, eventually rendering the land fallow.

Demonstration and training in improved agricultural practices, have proved effective in generating faith and creating understanding amongst farmers who are normally reluctant to take undue risks by shifting away from traditional methods of farming. In situ demonstration of High Yielding Varieties of wheat and summer paddy achieved significant success. Correct dosage of fertilisers coupled with timely sowing and weeding resulted in increase of per acre yield of both crops by 15 and 30 percent respectively.

With the cooperation of the Directorate of Agriculture, soil samples from farmers' fields were



Paddy processing—a low investment scheme

tested, on the basis of which suitable fertiliser doses were recommended to them. Success of the entire package of agricultural services extended by the project was clearly reflected in the improved yields of almost all major crops of the area.

As a result of LWS' continuing non-formal educational activities since the project's inception in Murshidabad, by end '86, of the total number of 10,400 neoliterates, nearly 41 percent were women. Considering the positive role women's literacy plays in development of an area, the large percentage of girl students (who were in excess of the boys during '86) was a refreshing feature. People's realisation of the importance and need for education was also reflected in the declining drop-out rates in Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres. Further, contrary to popular belief, the drop-out rates were lower in the case of girl students. In 1986 out of 483 total students, as high as 93 percent were finally assessed.

The success of NFE in Murshidabad is primarily due to NFE having increasingly become a community activity with growing involvement of the village committee in its planning and monitoring. LWS on its part continues to provide teaching aids and honorarium through the village committees.

The state of schools in the rural areas leaves much to be desired. Cramped quarters, leaking roofs, dilapidated and ill-ventilated rooms dampen the enthusiasm of the students, depriving them of much needed education. In its efforts to improve conditions prevailing in the rural schools, in '86, renovation and construction activities were undertaken in 5 schools benefitting approximately 1000 students of the area.

Women travel long distances in search of drinking water

Similarly, absence of all-weather roads in the target area creates acute communication bottlenecks throughout the year, especially during the monsoons. Communities remain isolated and cut off from the central markets, schools and hospitals. Reduced mobility results in fewer opportunities for employment. Against this backdrop, a phased program for construction of a 5 km long major link road was initiated in '85 as a result of collaborative efforts of the Government, local people and LWS. Work on this road progressed considerably during '86 and on its completion nearly 20 villages would be linked to the Block office, hospital and market centres.

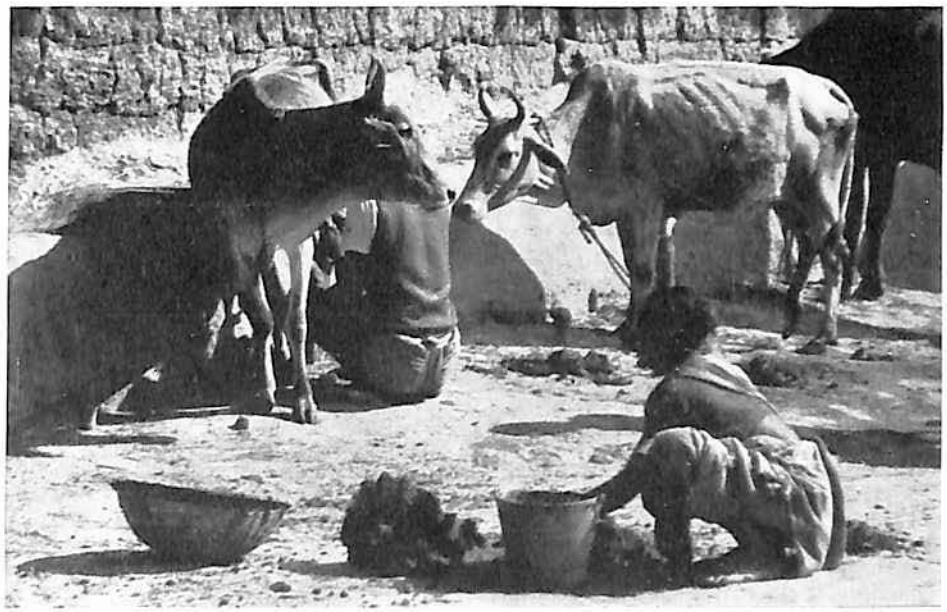
The project area and its vicinity are hit alternately by floods and droughts, when people, especially the womenfolk, have to travel long distances in search of drinking water. In order to alleviate this problem, 29 tubewells were sunk, benefitting nearly 1500 families. Likewise, the thirteen dugwell latrines constructed this year have a special significance for women by ensuring privacy as also for the community's environmental sanitation programme. Additionally, these latrines have been specially designed to act as potential nightsoil sources.

Spread of education and therefore increased awareness about health matters, has resulted in the community's active participation in community health ctivities. Three girls, with previous knowledge of mother and child health care, were imparted training in Community Health Services. These voluntary health workers are since, working alongside LWS health personnel, rendering service to their communities. This experience will enable them to assume responsibilities and cater to the health needs of their respective communities. The health team continues to extend curative and preventive services, along with health education, in the target villages, benefitting 5,500 persons. For better understanding and deeper

penetration of health services in the target area, an interim survey was conducted in 7 villages, based on which plans for '87 have been drawn up. Rupees fourteen thousand, collected by different communities from people availing health services during 1986, will be utilised for future community health services of their respective areas.

The problem of landlessness is so vast and deeprooted in Murshidabad that the people have resigned themselves to a life of deprivation. Additionally, they are mostly agricultural labourers who possess little or no skills. The severity of economic problems of the landless and marginal farmers necessitates continuing support for income generation schemes to enhance employment opportunities. Measures adopted by the project included technical inputs in the form of education and training for skill-formation amongst the unemployed and the self-employed as well as assistance for creation of economically viable and self-supporting groups.

Bamboo basket making was introduced to 15 families as a group activity. Initially the scheme suffered setbacks as the spirit of cooperation was lacking amongst the beneficiaries. Individuals mismanaged funds and were unwilling to subscribe to the concept of a cooperative venture. In course of time however, concerted efforts by the project staff succeeded in making them realise the positive gains of group efforts. In another instance, under the fishery development scheme, a group of eight landless families were assisted with fishing nets. With more than just their labour to offer, the group struck a bargain with the tank and reservoir owners who agreed to share profits on a 3: 2 ratio with the group, in complete contrast to the earlier tenuous relationship of casual labourers and owners.



62 families benefitted from the livestock assistance programme

During the year, 62 families were assisted with milch cows, goats, sheep and bullocks under the livestock assistance programme. Individuals also received support for petty business, grocery, cycle repairing, tea stall, horse and bullock carts, 'bidi' making and paddy husking. Besides being low investment schemes, these require minimal skills and are particularly suitable for the landless. Success of these schemes are evident from the fact that most of the recipients have not only repaid their loans earlier than scheduled, but have simultaneously run their ventures profitably.

In 1986, the concept of capital formation through a common village fund gained further ground. Initially the village committees were reluctant to recycle the funds recovered from various schemes. This was primarily due to an inherent scepticism about their ability to manage the funds, as well as a lack of perception about the dynamics of capital creation. However, continuous dialogue with the committee members helped them realise the relevance of a revolving fund. Subsequently 14 villages drew up plans for recycling Rs. 100,000 during 1987. The amount would be utilised mainly for Economic Measures and Agricultural programmes in the area, giving priority to people from the lower economic strata, resulting in a more systematic approach to the development process.

Communities have also realised the utility of Grain Banks in providing both short and long term assistance to the economically weaker sections. In Guttingdanga, a tribal village of 68 families, a Grain Bank was started through the communities' own efforts. It aims to meet the 2 MT deficit faced by the community each year, during the lean months of Sept./October. By end of the year, having gone through one such cycle, the grain bank was in the process of attaining viability.

During the year need based training programmes on subjects such as improved agricultural practices, audio-visual aids, development of

local organisation and leadership etc. were organised, involving resource personnnel from LWS, as well as the target people. The participants included 83 members of the target population and most of the programme staff.

Collaborative efforts of LWS, the Panchayat and other government and non-government bodies, as well well as local organisations have contributed significantly towards organising the youth and emergence of local leadership in the project area. Local organisations, with support from LWS, have taken a lead role in organising social activities like eye operation camps, tailoring and weaving training courses for women, football tournaments, gymnastic and athletic coaching, family planning camps and early childhood education for children. A local sporting club, reputed in the field of promoting sports and athletic events in rural areas, collaborated to organise several sports meets and physical education training programs in Murshidabad as well as other programme areas.

During '86 the balanced approach to development, comprising of both need-based individual programmes as well as joint efforts through community activities has resulted in strengthening the foundation for all round development of the area. This approach has served to kindle people's interests and they are now less resigned to their state of apathy. This is clearly reflected in their increased participation in all spheres of development activity. People are increasingly becoming aware about the dynamics of collective functioning and using organised forums for community development activities. Thus, despite all the impediments and problems, LWS' efforts have added a new dimension to the lives of the underprivileged.

AGRICULTURE

Type	Crop Area (in Acres)	Farmers	Level of Participation (in percent)	
			People	LWS
Harvested Crops	525	922	80	20
Standing Crops	483	1017	—	—

AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

Cropping Season	Number of Plots	Villages covered
Monsoon	5	1
Winter	6	2
Summer	4	3

INFRASTRUCTURE

Item	Unit
Drinking Water Tubewell	29
Shallow Tubewell	28
Tank	1
School	5
Orphanage	1
Multipurpose Centre	2
Youth Club	1
Dugwell Latrine	38
Culvert	3

NON FORMAL EDUCATION

No. of Centres	27
Student Strength	483

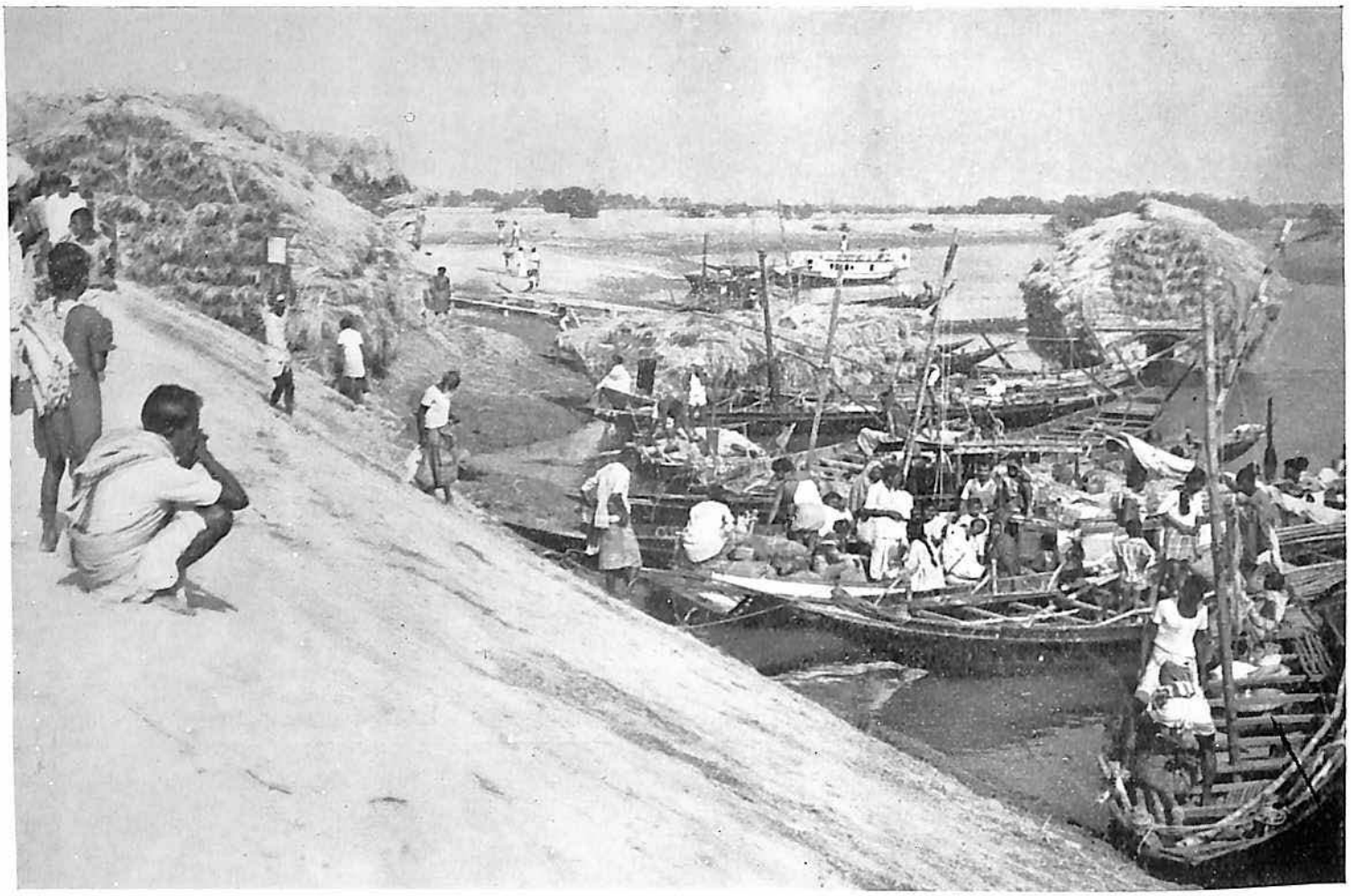
TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
Agriculture	9	30
NFE Refresher Course	4	20
Information Flow System	3	—
Media	—	8
Audio-visual-aids	1	—
Development of Local Organisations & Leadership	2	—
Landless	11	16
Community Health & Development	—	3

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families Benefitted
Horse Cart	4	4
Bullock Cart	3	3
Cycle Repairing	2	2
Cycle Rickshaw	2	2
Bidi Rolling	1	1
Bamboo Basket	1	35
Musical Instruments	1	10
Petty Business	47	47
Grocery	4	4
Tea Stall	2	2
Rice Husking	5	5
Livestock	174	62
Fishing Net	1	8
Tools for Tubewell Repairing	1	1

KULTALI PROJECTS



The entire area is criscrossed by innumerable waterways

Married at a tender age to a marginal farmer, Tulsi spent the first few years of her life in adjusting to the changed situation. The produce from the small family land holding, supplemented with income from periodic daily wage earnings, was barely adequate to make two ends meet. Nevertheless, they survived, occasionally resorting to borrowing from the money lenders in times of severe economic distress, which was increasing with alarming frequency.

Devastating floods and failure of monsoons in quick succession rendered them penniless and in great debt. With all avenues closed Tulsi's husband like many others migrated to Calcutta. Tulsi retreated to her parental home located few hours away by boat, only to become an additional burden to her brothers, who were in a similar predicament. Years passed before Tulsi finally ceased to think of her husband and resigned to a life of drudgery and deprivation. Yet today, Tulsi is a changed person who has regained her self-confidence, dignity and zest for life. The small business venture she started with guidance and assistance from community elders and LWS has progressed well, bringing her adequate income and hopes of a better future.

The poignant story of Tulsi illustrates the socio-economic conditions prevailing in Kultali block of Sunderbans, the most backward region of West Bengal. The entire area is

periodically subjected to vagaries of nature which often leaves a trail of miseries and suffering in its wake. Cyclones and storms accompanied by devastating tidal waves are a regular feature, while severe droughts are not uncommon either. In addition, the Block suffers from serious communication bottlenecks which contribute to the poverty, high unemployment and economic stagnation.

Kultali Project initiated in 1985 aims at arresting the migratory trends by creating conditions for socio-economic development and ultimately self-reliance. Commencing with a target population of 7,700 in 12 villages, by the end of 1986 the Project had extended its area of operation to cover 9,600 people in 18 villages.

Almost every family engages in some form of fishery

Criss-crossed by innumerable waterways, the deltaic region offers challenging prospects for a wide range of fishery and related activities. Yet, for various reasons, fisheries remain a largely unexploited and under-utilised source of income and livelihood for the majority.

Recurrent calamities in the form of floods, cyclones and tidal bores often reduce profitable ventures to liabilities. Lack of organisation, capital and people's staying power compounded by the exploitative market forces controlled by middlemen, represent the major obstacles to the development of fisheries as economically viable activities. Impoverished conditions of the people, consequent absence of capital and reserve, as well as little or no access to sources of finance, greatly reduce their spirit of enterprise and the ability to take risks and absorb losses. While almost every family at sometime during the year engages, albiet briefly, in some form of fishery, in terms of numbers however, only an insignificant section of this population succeed in transforming it into worthwhile economic pursuit.

When viewed in context of the frequency and nature of disasters and other adverse factors, the peoples' ambivalent attitude towards fishery seems logical.

Against this back ground, the project continued its efforts to identify viable integrated alternatives to meet the challenges of this unique situation. Believing that building up people's confidence in their own inherent capabilities is vital for the success of this exercise, an intense process of interaction was initiated among the people and with the people. Interpersonal contacts, group meetings, discussions, field training as well as other forms of interaction were adopted to increase people's awareness regarding their situation and to create faith in the power of collective action.

These exercises aimed at helping the people to understand their problems in its totality and in evolving a feasible operative strategy. Group based activities and building up of community assets and resources have been the basis of this approach. Injection of small amounts of capital and maximum coverage with the limited resources available have received priority. Introduction of technologies and training to develop a more scientific approach to their occupations, be it agriculture, fishery or other economic activities, represent the other components. Creation of community capital and other measures designed to strengthen group activities are envisaged to help evolve viable long-term alternatives.

Operationalising this strategy in the sphere of fisheries, 486 families were assisted with fish fingerlings, feed and technical inputs for fish farming in 512 homestead ponds. These small ponds although traditionally used for fish cultivation brought little or no returns. But with the infusion of capital and technical knowhow, these ponds have potential for developing into

profitable enterprises. Support was also extended to strengthen the embankments of 66 ponds. Additionally, several small dual purpose tanks have been excavated. These shallow rain water reservoirs, while providing life-saving irrigation water, have also served the purpose of pisciculture. To encourage capture fishing, three families have been equipped with nets and gears.

Despite its obvious natural potential for being the primary occupation, fishery and related activities remain largely un-explored and untapped. People therefore rely totally on agriculture for sustenance. Yet climatic and geographical conditions make agriculture a precarious means of livelihood. Recurrent floods, soil and water salinity as well as lack of irrigation facilities and total dependance on monsoons, result in low agricultural productivity and poor returns. Moreover, more than 90 percent of population are either landless labourers, share croppers or marginal farmers owning less than one acre of land. Such fragmentation of land compounded by lack of capital for inputs in the form of improved seeds and fertilizer makes agriculture less than viable.

The project aims at increasing agricultural production within the existing structural framework by providing complementary inputs such as improved variety of seeds, fertilisers, new methods of irrigation and technical know-how. Growing of quick maturing cash crops appropriate to soil and climatic conditions has been encouraged. During the year, 399 families were assisted with seeds and fertilizers to cultivate paddy on 307 acres of land. Wheat and mustard represent the new crops introduced during the year. While 136 families have been assisted to grow wheat, 109 families were assisted to grow mustard on experimental basis. Unlike mustard which

Excavation of small tanks for irrigation has proved a feasible alternative

can thrive on the residual moisture, wheat requires some irrigation, for which shallow rain water tanks have been excavated. Besides being a major edible oil seed of high market value, mustard has also helped to promote bee-keeping and honey production.

Cultivation of kitchen gardens was encouraged among women as sources of additional family incomes as well as to supplement the family diets. Two hundred and fifty eight families have thus been assisted to increase their family income by growing a wide variety of vegetables such as potatoes, chillies, cauliflower, cabbage and other winter vegetables. Commercial vegetable cultivation promoted among farmers with small land holdings also yielded encouraging results.

As agriculture in the project area is dependent on a generally erratic rainfall, irrigation becomes indispensable for successful and economical use of land. Introduction of new crops, changes in cropping pattern and intensity as well as adoption of other improved practices depend on the availability of irrigation. In Kultali, the choice of irrigation infrastructure is, however limited, because of the high percentage of salinity in the soil as well as in surface and sub-soil water. Irrigation by means of rainwater impounded in tanks is the only option. But, as the target population comprises of marginal farmers and landless agricultural families, land for excavation of large tanks is not available. Excavation of small tanks to hold rain water, has proved a feasible alternative. The freshwater reservoirs while reducing the uncertainities related to the major monsoon paddy crop, have also proved beneficial for the cultivation of winter vegetables and other quick maturing cash crops. The small tanks excavated during the year generated great enthusiasm and wide acceptance of this irrigation infrastructure.

The hamlets of the project area are linked to the main thoroughfare by innumerable mud roads not negotiable in rainy season. Hence,

roads to facilitate easier movement of people and village produce and to increase people's access to central markets, administrative and health centres are essential for development of the area. Completion of the 10 km. all weather road during the year proved a boon in this respect.

Inadequacy of safe drinking water has been the major cause of the widespread incidence of waterborne diseases. To their great distress, village women and girls have to walk long distances to fetch drinking water. To help alleviate their situation and to ensure adequate supply of safe drinking water 10 drinking water tubewells have been sunk during the year.

The dark and dingy temporary structures that serve as schools illustrate the extreme backwardness of the area. Over-crowded with children, these structures not only create a depressing environment but also pose a threat to the safety of the children, particularly during adverse weather. In an area where literacy levels are already exceedingly low, lack of suitable infrastructure for education further adds to the problem. Two primary school buildings reconstructed during the year will provide better learning atmosphere to 450 children of two villages. In addition, support was also extended to a local high school for repairing and renovating the dilapidated school building.

The multi-purpose community centres built in 8 villages during the year with people's labour and material support from LWS, are the focal points of many development activities. These structures serve as village committee offices, non-formal education centres and common meeting place for the communities.

Assisted landless youth plys his rickshaw van on the newly constructed road

Marginal farmers and landless labourers constitute a very large section of the population whose employment opportunities are unpredictable and incomes meagre. The problems of seasonal employment and exploitative wages are further aggravated by annual floods and cyclones. These oppressive factors compell people to leave their homes in search of employment in the nearby city of Calcutta. Hence, besides improving agriculture and fisheries, it is equally important to develop and create subsidiary sources of income, to increase employment opportunities and raise family earnings, particularly during lean periods.

Measures were undertaken to develop alternate as well as secondary sources of occupation and income which among others included, provision of 24 rickshaw vans to an equal number of landless and marginal families. Rickshaw vans, the primary means of road transportation in the area offer round the year employment opportunities to these families. Rice processing, 'beedi' rolling, readymade garments and puffed rice vending activities, promoted among 63 families offer similar opportunities for increasing incomes. More over, many of these enterprises provide scope for fruitful utilisation of otherwise idle family manpower, for supplementing family incomes.

Simultaneously, efforts were directed towards activising and mobilising women by involving them in economic ventures. In this agrarian economy, where scope for employment is generally low, women's opportunities for earning with dignity are greatly reduced. Hence, imparting skills to the village women folk assumes particular significance. Towards this end, two weaving training-cum-production centres have been established in two villages, where 19 women are undergoing training. New skills thus imparted are envisaged to enable the women to participate actively in the process of improving family living standards.

Illiteracy and poverty share a cause and effect relationship, perpetuating conditions of deprivation. To break this vicious cycle, awareness needs to be created among people regarding their situation and environment. NFE centres provide an ideal platform for addressing this need. Fifteen NFE centres with a student strength of 373 people, were operated during the year, to impart functional skills and education. NFE centres play a multidimensional role and lay emphasis on general education regarding improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, health, hygiene and other aspects, directly related to the lives and situation of the people.

NFE centres have been started exclusively for women

Women represent 46 percent of the total population, without whose active participation development would remain incomplete. In addition, the area has a large Muslim population, who in many ways, are even less advanced. Notwithstanding, the socio-cultural and economic constraints, women from this community as a result of the project's efforts, have come forward to identify areas of mutual co-operation. These women have shed their inhibitions to attend non-formal education centres opened exclusively for women. As in other rural program areas, working children too have taken advantage of the NFE centres to gain literacy and numeracy. The NFE centres have proved a boon to these children who, primarily for economic reasons could not avail of the normal facilities for primary education. The NFE teachers displaying a remarkable sense of responsibility towards the community and the children, voluntarily conduct classes for children using the primary school syllabi.

Several trainings, workshops and seminars, the other facets of the continuing process of education, were conducted during the year. Village based trainings have been organised with internal resources as well as by availing the expertise of the central and state government agencies, semi-government institutions and other voluntary organisations. Subjects covered included agriculture, pisciculture, beekeeping, community health, cottage industries and other pertinent issues. NFE teachers' training was also conducted.

These programs are specially designed and oriented to have direct bearing on the lifestyle of the people. Regular follow-up of trainees and monitoring of their activities are carried out to assess the impact of the training programs as well as to strengthen areas of weaknesses. Over hundred members of the communities and 30 LWS resource personnel participated in 10 such programs, conducted in 1986.

Poor health and ignorance regarding environmental sanitation, health and hygiene prevail in the area. Latrines, immunisation and vaccination of mothers and children of admissible age are virtually alien concepts. To make matters worse the inaccessibility of the project areas has proved a constraint towards identifying the right resource personnel to meet the health needs of the people. Considering the gravity and the extent of the problem, LWS is making concerted efforts to engage health professionals and para medicals who will stay among the people to cater to their health needs.

Health survey, as preparatory to a community oriented health care system, was carried out in two villages during the year.

Recognising peoples' involvement as the essential factor for success of development efforts, the project, since inception, concentrated on mobilising the communities particularly the youth. A consultative and participatory approach was adopted to create awareness among people regarding their situation as well as to enable the community to plan

for their own development drawing upon the collective experience and wisdom. The increasing realisation of the need and importance of co-ordinated efforts, has impelled the communities to rise above narrow individualistic tendencies and come together for collective action. This realisation, tempered with genuine concern for the underprivileged segments gave birth to representative community structures in the villages. Presently the 15 village committees functioning in the project area are actively involved in the process of planning, monitoring and administration of community resources.

To accelerate the process of collective planning as well as to add substance to these plans, the concept of community capital has been promoted. Village revolving funds have been formed through refund of the value of material assistance received by the people to their respective village committees and voluntary contributions in the form of labour wages and materials. Need based approach towards recycling of these funds has helped reduce people's dependence on external sources of capital, particularly on money lenders and other exploitative sources.

By the end of the year, all 15 village committees had their own revolving funds with a cash balance of nearly Rs. 14,000/- over and above the recycled amount of Rs. 18,000/-.

Since the projects intervention, positive signs of growth have become evident among the communities in the Kultali program area. It is the projects' aim to enable the people to sustain and nurture the development process in order to bring about qualitative changes in their lives.

NON FORMAL EDUCATION

Number of Centres	15
Student Strength	373

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number of Participants
Weaving	19

INFRASTRUCTURE

Item	Unit	
	Completed	In Progress
Drinking Water Tubewell	10	—
Tanks	20	—
Pond dressing	66	—
School	3	—
Road (km)	6.15	3.85
House Repair	14	—

KITCHEN GARDEN

Type of Crop	Acres	People
Vegetables	7.5	241

HORTICULTURE

Number of Saplings	2100
Families benefitted	1000

SOCIAL FORESTRY

Number of Saplings	4500
Villages covered	6

AGRICULTURE

Type	Crop Area (in Acres)	Farmers	Level of Participation (in percent)	
			People	LWS
Harvested Crop	306	399	75	25

AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

Cropping Season	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers covered
Winter	27	479

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

Subject	Staff	People
Agriculture	3	200
Kitchen Gardening for Women	4	148
Beekeeping	—	10
Pisciculture	3	165
NFE teachers training	10	50
Development Motivation	4	—
Audit and Accounts	2	—
Food and Nutrition	3	40
Community Health & Development	1	—

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families Benefitted
Bee-keeping	8	4
Pisciculture	512	486
Fishery Nets	3	3
Readymade Garments	1	3
Paddy Processing	41	41
Puffed Rice Trade	2	5
Cycle Van	24	24
Bidi Rolling	15	15
Paper Bag	1	1

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

Project WHAT, amid the lush green hills of Bijatala, the rugged undulated terrain of Jamda, the flat topped bare hillocks of Bandwan in Purulia; Jangal Mahal—among scrub jungles in Burdwan; flood and drought prone Murshidabad; marshy and saline Kultali; and densely populated and polluted city of Calcutta, where millions of people live without any tomorrows—constitute the operational areas of DCU.

NFE centres—often the nucleus of development activities

Rising unemployment, low agricultural productivity, increasing landlessness, ignorance of appropriate technology, paucity of capital as well as continuing depletion of resources have enmeshed these communities in an inexorable web of deprivation. Prejudices, superstitions, ignorance, ill health and illiteracy among the population tend to perpetuate the conditions. Against such a back drop, communication becomes a crucially important factor for all round development in these communities. Effective communication helps to identify and define the problems and the needs. In its many forms, communication helps to develop strategies for the satisfaction of needs as well as to create a habitable environment on the basis of self reliance and in harmony with the values and aspirations of each society.

Information represents a powerful instrument for education, public awareness and social change. The multidimensional and multi-media communication strategy adopted by LWS emphasises the use of the right media for transferring information, whether it be for accelerating income generation or for eradicating superstition and ignorance or for the dissemination of agricultural information. Among the various media options available, are the traditional ones like drama, puppetry and role play, the print media, slides as well as a sophisticated medium like video.

When communication is both democratic and diverse, it broadens the horizons of thought and options for action, for communities as well as for individuals. The genesis of such thought process led to the creation of Supportive Media Team, which excels in local and traditional media like puppetry, role-play, theatre and mime. New messages on preventive health and other socio-economic subjects relevant to the peoples' situation, when communicated through traditional media, increases acceptance and understanding. Experience has proved that these messages have a greater impact when presented in people's own spoken language through media congenial to their culture and ethos as well as with their active participation. In order to strengthen peoples involvement in the communication process as well as to harness their talents for disseminating information for development, SMT has organised youth clubs in many villages. Many of the thirty seven drama groups organised last year, continue to take active part in the socio-cultural and development programmes of their communities. Sustained efforts have also resulted in the formation of a number of such new groups who have strengthened the development efforts of their respective communities. The SMT provides continuous follow up support to the youth and drama groups and similar activity groups. Guidance and technical inputs pro-

vided by SMT has generated a new sense of confidence among these groups as well as increased awareness regarding the role of youth in development.

Under the prevalent socio-economic conditions, malnutrition is rampant, particularly among women and children. The impact of malnutrition on the current as well as future generations, is a matter of grave concern. Yet these communities, caught in the vortex of deprivation, are seldom aware of the gravity of the situation and even when aware, have very few options. The 'food and nutrition week' organised in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Board, Government of India assumes particular significance in this context. The SMT, with the media resources available at its command, actively participated in this programme organised to increase peoples awareness regarding the impact of malnutrition. Mothers were taught improved methods of cooking to prevent loss of nutrients as well as to identify inexpensive and locally available food, rich in nutrients. The team members moved from village to village disseminating information on low cost nutrition to hundreds of people, through songs, dramas, role plays, mime and puppetry.

The new range of puppets procured during the year has added another dimension to the Supportive Media Team activities. This addition to repertoire captivated the imagination of the viewers as well as added depth and range to the messages. The members of the team attended a number of external training programmes and workshops to update their knowledge and sharpen their skill in puppetry.

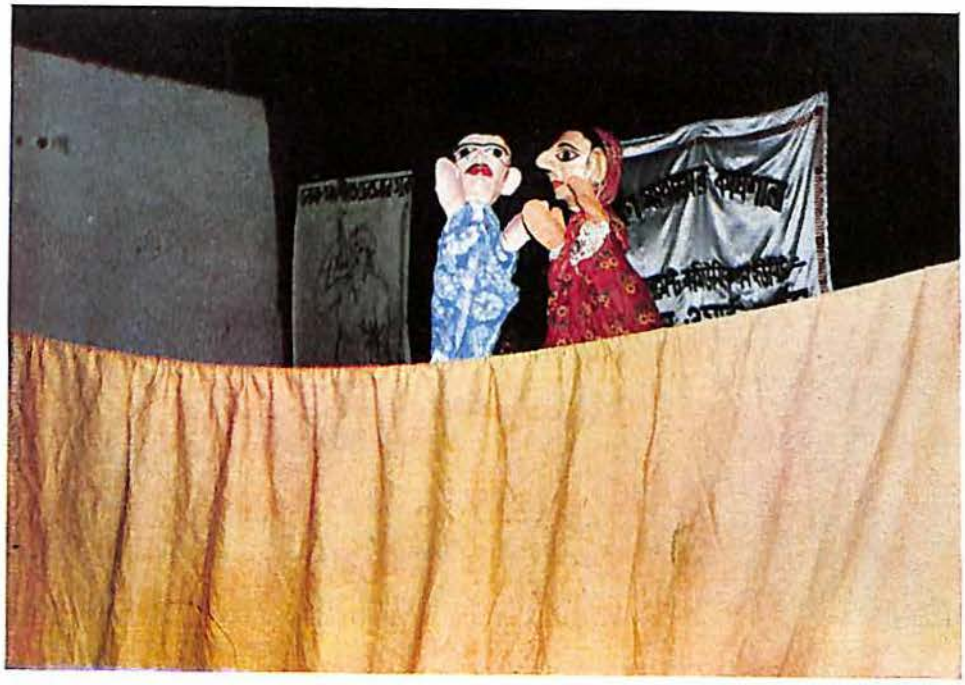
Documentation of project activities on slides, introduced the previous year, made further progress. Slides with commentaries of Project WHAT and Burdwan projects, prepared during '86, have proved valuable as communication tools as well as reference aids. The slides have enabled both the communities and LWS personnel to learn about the progress and problems of their counterparts in other projects, further underscoring the educational and information value of this medium.

Slides have proved valuable as communication tools

'Video' a powerful audio-visual tool for communication has immense scope for disseminating the messages of development at the grassroot level. The video unit in its 4th year of functioning has made and distributed 54 copies of educational video films to different project areas. With the help of mobile field units the messages of development are transmitted even to the remotest villages. Interchange of video cassettes between programme areas arranged by D.C.U., ensures round the year availability of new films.

Recognition accorded by national as well as international agencies, reflect the high quality as well as educational and information value of the films produced by the team. Electronics Trade and Telecommunication Dept., an undertaking of the Government of India, has taken three video films namely 'Smokeless Oven' 'Low Cost Latrine' and 'Environment and Sanitation' for broadcasting on the national network as part of the TELETEACH programme. Programmes have also been made for UNICEF, AFPRO, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and Finland Lutheran Church. A Dutch language version of the film 'To Those In Need' was also produced during the year.

The Government of India has officially recognised the video programmes produced by LWS. The Central Board of Film Certification has released censor certificates for five films namely, 'Low Cost Latrine', 'Smokeless Oven' 'Environment and Sanitation', 'Bee-Keeping'



Puppets have added another dimension to media activities

and 'Pisciculture' according these, the status of educational films.

Bi-annual reviews and feed back by LWS executives and Calcutta Doordarshan (Regional Television Centre) personnel, provided opportunities for critical assessment, analysis and guidelines for qualitative improvement in production. Participation at various training programmes have also enabled the video unit to adopt innovative and effective techniques of film production. These skills were further enhanced on the job training imparted by an expatriate professional in the field of video communication.

The concept of Development Communication has taken deep roots in the minds of the project workers and people through Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres. These centres, apart from assisting the people to acquire basic literacy, provide them an opportunity for improving functional knowledge and skills as well as to develop their natural potential for social development.

Manoj, a teacher of a non-formal education centre in Jangal Mahal symbolises the achievements of NFE. Manoj had undergone training on Pisciculture at the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute of the Government of India at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. The training exposed him to various facets of scientific fish breeding. His conventional knowledge of fish farming has thus been strengthened by fresh information on the economy of fish breeding, preparation of ponds, nursing fingerlings and other aspects. Excited by his newly acquired knowledge, Manoj made concerted efforts to adopt and impart the same skills to members of his community as well as to others who showed interest. He has rightly realised that non-formal education means not only acquiring literacy, but also acquiring relevant skills, understanding ones socio-cultural and economic milieu and mobilising the community's efforts for a better life. Manoj and other NFE teachers like him have succeeded in injecting others with their zeal and aspirations, evident from the eleven pisciculture groups, comprising of 63 families currently functioning in Jangal Mahal.

The NFE process has been further intensified to create conditions for greater involvement and participation of the people in development. Teachers attempt to make NFE more effective through group meetings, and discussions on local problems. Acquisition of knowledge on health and environment through NFE, reduces the health hazards while the development of existing skills and introduction of new skills through NFE increases production and family incomes. Non formal education has heightened awareness and stimulated people to action. NFE centres, often the nucleus of development activities, are gradually evolving into centres for the empowerment of the people.

NFE teachers have been provided with opportunities to update their knowledge and skills through various trainings and teachers' refresher courses. These courses are participatory in nature and take the help of local and regional resource persons. For collective reflection, teachers are involved in group discussion, experience sharing as well as discussions on local problems. During the year, 6 NFE teachers' refresher courses were organised in Murshidabad, Kultali, Project WHAT, Calcutta as well as for a local organization. Members of village committees, Panchayats, women's organisations, and Government officials participated in these training programmes to share their experience in order to create better understanding about the role of NFE in development.

At the other extremity of the spectrum are the children from economically backward classes, who are required to work to support their families. The pittance they earn, doing odd jobs, help to keep their family hearths burning. It is in these circumstances, that NFE plays a dynamic and rewarding role. NFE has kindled in them the desire to learn and know. As NFE classes are held during evening hours, these children along with the illiterate adults, take advantage of NFE centres for furthering knowledge, literacy and numeracy. However, the educational needs of these working children have been recognized to be different from those of the adults. Concerted efforts are therefore being made to design a suitable curriculum to cater to their specific needs.

NFE teachers of project WHAT, discuss a point at the refresher course

'ALO', the magazine for the neo-literates has become an effective forum of the people—reflecting their life style, stories of trials, tribulations and successes. Information on better farming, vocational schemes, mother and child health care, nutrition, cultural and traditional heritage, resources available for augmentation of income, and similar subjects are continuously published in ALO. Hearteningly, NFE users continue to generate more and more writings and drawings for publication in 'ALO'. The Government of India has listed the magazine in the catalogue of 'post-literacy material'. The regional TV has also mentioned the name of 'ALO' in its programme for the rural areas. Recognition of this nature is of special significance and a source of encouragement to all concerned.

The print media also includes charts, posters, flash cards, and other educational aids. 'Partnership in Progress', a bi-annual publication in English publishes articles, case-studies, development dialogues, essays and writings by members of LWS team as well as eminent individuals in the field of development from different parts of the country. It provides opportunities to LWS and others for sharing their experiences and gaining new and fresh insight into the development process. The two issues of the year have focussed attention on 'Awareness and Motivation' and 'Women'.

Trainings, workshops and seminars (TWS), other facets of the non-formal education process, have proved immensely useful for increasing skills, know-how and managerial capabilities among LWS personnel as well as target population. Towards this end, during 1986, 40 training, workshops and seminars covering a variety of subjects were organised both in the project areas and at government and non-government institutions. These programmes have helped the people and LWS personnel to acquire new skills and expertise related to their work and lives as well as exposed them to viable alternatives for development.

The highlights of TWS activities during 1986 are as follows:–

- Seventeen staff members attended a course on 'Management of Rural Projects', organised by National Institute of Social Work and Social Science, Bhubaneswar. The workshop highlighted strategies for rural development projects, its human components, rural health and participatory models of rural development, among other subjects. Similar workshops on 'Rural Communication', 'Human Resource Development' and courses for the non-formal education teachers have also been successfully conducted.

- Audio-Visual training conducted by Lalbhai Group Rural Development Fund at Ahmedabad from 17th June to 7th July, 1986, where 12 LWS personnel and community members participated, stressed on the theory of communication, selection of media, rural audience and their psychology as well as preparation of different audio visual aids.

- Training in 'Development Motivation and Leadership' conducted at Ramkrishna Mission, Loksiksha Parishad, Narendrapur and 'Role of Women in Bustee Development' by Bengal Mass Education Society, Calcutta stressed on the need for social and spiritual understanding of the people. Six community representatives and 3 LWS personnel participated in these training programmes.

- Watershed management training, organised by Action for Food Production and Myrada, where 4 LWS staff members participated, provided insight into appropriate land use, identifying resources (land and water), determination of subsector priority (social forestry), investment plan (public and private), development of institutional infrastructure and monitoring the implementation of such plans.

Participants learn to construct a smokeless oven

DCU has also conducted trainings for external organisations on request. Training on 'Smokeless Oven' was conducted for an organisation in Bankura, where seventy tribal women from the districts of Bankura, Purulia, and Midnapore participated. Indian Confederation for Pre-school Education Board, requested for a training on Non-Formal Education for the trainees of Montessori methods of education. A week-long NFE training was conducted in which thirty nine women trainee teachers participated.

Sports meets have been organised within all programme areas. 'Physical Fitness Training Programme', in collaboration with a local club in Murshidabad, engaged in the promotion of rural sports and related activities, have enabled the village youth groups to have systematic training in traditional sports. The training helped three youths from two project areas to compete in the state level competitions for the 'National Physical Efficiency Test.'

Communication through the traditional media is easily accepted and understood

DCU continued to work closely with many government and non-government agencies, institutions and local and international voluntary organisations. The reciprocal nature of the relationship enabled DCU to obtain technical inputs for conducting training programmes as well as for preparing audio-visual aids. UNICEF, Synodical Board of Social Services—Church of North India, Ramkrishna Mission and Xavier Institute of Social Service, are a few among the many collaborators. Interaction with these organisations and institutions, has helped to strengthen the impact of LWS India's development efforts.

TABLE—1

Item	Number Organised	Details of Participation				Total
		Staff		People		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Training	43	156	15	858	85	1014
Workshop	11	96	41	116	59	212
Seminar	1	3	100	—	—	3
Total	55	255	21	974	79	1229

TABLE—1.1

Training	Number Arranged	Participants		
		Staff	People	Total
Agriculture	14	44	249	293
Dryland Farming & Water Management	1	1	—	1
Watershed Planning	1	4	—	4
NFE Teachers training	6	9	170	179
Montessori Teachers training	1	16	3	19
Audio-Visual-Aids	1	12	1	13
Rural Communication	1	14	—	14
Animal Husbandry and Livestock Management	1	—	12	12
Soap making	2	3	20	23
Repair & maintenance of Hand pump and pump sets	3	2	28	30
Use of Small Irrigation Pump	1	2	—	2
Social Forestry	1	1	—	1
Community Leadership	1	1	—	1
Development Motivation & Leadership	2	8	—	8
Management of Rural Projects	1	17	—	17
Project Preparation & Budgeting	1	2	—	2
Audit & Accounting	1	2	—	2
Statistics	1	13	—	13
Sports & Physical Culture	1	—	8	8
Food & Nutrition	1	5	305	310
Smokeless Oven	1	—	62	62
Total	43	156	858	1014

TABLE—1.2

Workshop	Number arranged	Number of Participants		
		Staff	People	Total
Adult Education & Development	1	5	—	5
Media—its uses & impact	1	—	24	24
Theatre	1	8	38	46
Slide documentation	1	5	50	55
Planning & Development of Communication Activities	1	26	—	26
Development of Leadership & Local Organisations	1	2	—	2
Youth Leadership	1	4	4	8
Development Journalism	1	1	—	1
Development of Managerial Skills	1	1	—	1
Problem of Landless & People's Plan	1	8	—	8
Information Flow System	1	36	—	36
Total	11	96	116	212

TABLE—1.3

Seminar	Number arranged	Number of Participants		
		Staff	People	Total
Development & Media	1	3	—	3

TABLE—2

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Programe Area	Number of centres	Students
Burdwan	28	448
Calcutta	21	491
Kultali	15	373
Murshidabad	27	483
Mayurbhanj	42	1441
Purulia	17	391
Dasnagar	4	77
Total	154	3704

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

The most underprivileged segments of society comprising of the landless, the marginal and small farmers in the rural areas, the slum and squatter settlement inhabitants, the pavement dwellers as well as the shelterless in the urban sector constitute the population with whom LWS-India works. The intermixture of extreme poverty, ignorance and superstition has created conditions where disease and poor health are accepted as the inevitable and very often attributed to the supernatural elements. Primitive child-bearing and rearing practices, malnutrition, communicable diseases, unhygienic disposal of refuse and excreta, lack of basic health facilities, all superimposed on traditional social beliefs, customs and taboos, present multiple health problems and pose a formidable challenge to development workers.

Against this backdrop of deprivation, illiteracy and ignorance, LWS (I), guided by the WHO strategy for Primary Health Care, has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach to health problems. Education regarding prevailing health problems and the methods of preventing and controlling them, promotion of food supply and proper nutrition, adequate supply of safe water and basic sanitation, maternal and child health care including family planning, immunization against major infectious diseases, prevention and control of locally endemic diseases, appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries and provision of essential drugs are the key components of this strategy. The CHS Project stresses primarily on mothers and children as they constitute 64% of the country's population, compounded

Women and children are the focal points of the Community Health activities

by the fact that they are the most vulnerable to disease and ill health in the prevailing socio-economic conditions. Quite naturally therefore, participation of women is vital for the success of community health programme. As mothers and housewives, women play the key role in shaping the health of the family, particularly that of the children. Women, who are literate and aware of health and hygiene, not only manage their homes efficiently, but help promote greater expectancy of life, as well as smaller and better nourished families.

The project recognises and attaches importance to this extremely vital factor of women being the focal point in the matrix of Community Health Project. Hence mother care focuses on ante-natal and post-natal care coupled with measures for birth control and birth spacing. Control of communicable diseases, environmental sanitation, basic curative and referral services and most importantly education, together form the complete package of health care service for mothers. Care of children, especially those under six years, is undertaken through growth monitoring, oral rehydration therapy, stress on breast feeding and immunization, together popularly known as 'GOBI'—the four-fold child survival strategy propounded by the UNICEF.

Special emphasis is laid on health education through group and mass meetings, home visits and other forms of interpersonal communication. During these occasions, the health workers use audio-visual aids extensively, to educate and prepare the community to meet their own primary health needs and increase their awareness regarding locally accessible and affordable preventive measures. Practical demonstrations on preparation of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for control and management of diarrhoea and

Health education to bring about attitudinal changes

methods of cooking to prevent excessive loss of nutrients are organised for the benefit of mothers.

This educative process undertaken at the grassroot levels by field level health teams is reinforced through short duration training and orientation courses conducted by professionals at village levels. Five such orientation and exposure courses were conducted within different program areas to generate interest in health matters and increase acceptability of the concept of community health among target population. Two hundred four participants were chosen from a wide cross section of the population, consisting of opinion leaders, non-formal education teachers, women, particularly mothers and interested youth.

Attitudinal changes resulting from health education are becoming increasingly evident. Fear and mistrust of injections etc., are being replaced by trust and acceptance. People are shedding their superstitions and are now seeking qualified medical advice. More and more women are taking part in mother's meetings, in the activities of mothers clubs, and in cooking demonstrations. In the past, weighing of the neonates and infants posed insurmountable problems as mothers refused to cooperate due to superstitions. Present data available from the programs show that 60 percent of the neonates have been weighed during this year. Acceptance of timely weighing for growth monitoring has enabled the mothers to detect impending malnutrition and initiate necessary preventive measures to the extent possible. Knowledge and practice of oral rehydration therapy in cases of dehydration from diarrhoea and acceptance of immunization has reduced mortality and morbidity. In Jangal Mahal of Burdwan Project, a Baby show was organised which generated widespread enthusiasm as well as enhanced our child care program. Changes have been slow but perceptible as in the case of ante-natal mothers who are reporting in increasing numbers in their early months of pregnancy.

Concept of integrated development considers self-reliance as the prime

objective. Progress towards self-reliance is ensured by adopting consultative and participatory approach to the decision making process. Formal and informal discussions with the communities have helped to identify their priorities, boost the communities' confidence in their own capabilities and allay people's fears. Primary health needs of the people centre around emergency medical services, ante-natal and intranatal care, and adequate nutrition for children.

Operationally, support for the growth of self reliance has meant preparing the people's representatives, in this instance Community Health Volunteers, through appropriate training programs to shoulder the responsibilities of primary health care. Keeping in view the people's needs and priorities, suitable training programs have been designed to equip the volunteers with adequate skills. Twenty six volunteers as well as other representatives identified by the communities have been trained during the year. Identification of suitable candidates have posed problems, particularly in rural areas, on account of social barriers, low literacy levels and the technical nature of the tasks involved.

Providing extensive training to health workers the main functionaries of the health projects and the vital link with the people-have been an area of major emphasis during the year. Continuous informal, on-the-job training by medical and paramedical personnel with experience in community health work as well as formal institutional training, has added to conceptual depth and strengthened skills. Institutional training courses for seven health workers and other resource personnel were organised during the period. In addition preliminary arrangements have been completed for training of traditional birth attendants.

The need for curative service however continues

The year witnessed closer involvement of CHS in the training of non-formal education teachers. Non-formal education centres have been identified as effective forums for spreading the messages of primary health care. Teachers, normally literate youth from the communities concerned, are widely respected and looked upon by the people for advice and guidance. Participation by such youth in health related activities will help to remove the inhibitions and mistrust. During 1986, one hundred and eleven teachers and community leaders participating in four training courses were given exposure to the concepts of community health care.

To avoid dilution of program efforts as well as consideration of logistic problems, the health programs have been designed to concentrate on certain selected zones within LWS operational area known as Intensive Care Areas and the adjoining areas are termed as Peripheral Areas. During the year some more villages were brought within the ambit of the health programs of Murshidabad Project, Purulia in Project WHAT and in certain sectors of Calcutta Project. Despite constraints, it has been possible to initiate the health program at Kultali where establishment of rapport and baseline data collection is underway. Presently, intensive care areas have a population of 32,000 while the peripheral health care covers approximately 40,000 people.

Program assessment during the latter part of the year resulted in a Community Health Survey to elicit baseline data related to the status of the community's health. The results of the survey are awaited. Well defined set of indicators have also been identified and a new information flow system introduced to enable more effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of the health programs. During the course of these exercises it was revealed that although the grassroot level health workers continue to be effective, yet, due to the limited nature of their professional expertise a number of technical problems frequently arise. In the vital field of immunisation, problems of 'Cold Chain' calls for

Regular growth monitoring to assess nutritional status

professional skill at the operational level. To lend greater credibility to the program and ensure easier acceptance by target population, as well as to provide on-site guidance to the health team, technical and professional middle level leadership has been considered essential.

The tail end of the monsoon caused widespread flood in the districts and severe waterlogging in the city of Calcutta, resulting in an increase in diarrhoeal disease and deaths in the affected areas. The health teams of the Calcutta Project changed routine and opened up multiple treatment centres while the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit of LWS-India under guidance and coordination of the Community Health Services Department took up emergency medical operations in two blocks of South 24-Parganas district. Vaccination with the aid of Pedo-jets, distribution of water purification tablets, emergency nutrition program and timely medical intervention checked the onslaught of the epidemic in all the areas. Here also health education measures such as evening sessions for the volunteers as well as opinion leaders, display of colourful posters in simple local language and film shows on health were organised.

Close collaboration and participation with national, international and local voluntary organisations and government departments has continued to supplement the efforts of LWS in health activities particularly in areas of training, audio-visual-aids, and procurement of vaccines and nutritional supplements free of cost.

Apart from nutritional supplements and vaccines supplied by the Government, Lutheran World Service has received co-operation from the Health Department and Food & Nutrition Department of the Government in the sphere of training of health workers, other resource personnel and target population. West Bengal Voluntary Health Association has been deeply involved in imparting advanced training to health personnel and Community Health Volunteers as well as to other members of the target population. Community Development Medical Unit supplied drugs of standard quality at prices cheaper than the prevailing market rates, thus reducing expenses on drugs. Closer collaboration has been established with other local Voluntary Organisations engaged in various aspects of health work.

TABLE—I

COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING

AREA	Advance Course			Short Course
	Health Worker	Community Health Volunteer	Target people	Target people
CALCUTTA				
Entally & Extn. Areas	—	3	2	—
Ultadanga & Extn. Areas	—	4	2	98
Salt Lake & Extn. Areas	—	4	5	40
MURSHIDABAD	—	—	3	—
BURDWAN	2	—	4	34
MAYURBHANJ	2	—	2	—
PURULIA	2	—	—	32
KULTALI	1	—	—	—
ON-SITE				
Dasnagar	—	1	1	—
Khudirampally	—	1	—	—
Total	7	13	19	204

The need to bring health care within the reach of all people has resulted in the recognition of the importance of non-physician primary health workers. In order to equip the primary health workers including community volunteers as well as to motivate them to fulfil their role as important community resources, LWS adopted a strategy of intense training. Community leaders and other key community individuals, the channels of communication to and within the at-risk-groups were also exposed to the concepts and practices of community health, to elicit their participation for developing an effective health care system.

TABLE—II

HEALTH EDUCATION

ACTIVITIES	PROGRAMME AREAS										
	CALCUTTA			MURSHIDABAD	BURDWAN	PURULIA	MAYURBHANJ		ON-SITE		
	Entally	Ulta-danga	Salt Lake	Murshidabad	Jangal Mahal	Bandwan	Jamda	Bija-tala	Das-nagar	Khudi-rampally	Total
Home Visits	2293	3414	1811	1038	1461	1356	340	1706	1112	1514	16045
Group Meetings	615	22	644	71	298	98	5	319	346	45	2463

Educating people to change their health related attitude and behaviour in order to prevent diseases and to maintain health is probably the most important task in a community health programme. Health education for developing consciousness on health matters was undertaken through home visits and group meetings. Home visits were given importance to enhance interpersonal communication, to identify individual family health problems and help the families to evolve acceptable and possible preventive and promotive health measures.

TABLE—III

CURATIVE SERVICES

AREA	Number of cases treated								
	ADULT				UNDER-FIVES				
	Men	Women	Sub Total	Percent of total	Boys	Girls	Sub total	Percent of total	Total
CALCUTTA									
Entally & Extn. Areas	965	1805	2770	59	989	897	1886	41	4656
Ultadanga & Extn. Areas	1036	1435	2471	68	624	517	1141	32	3612
Salt Lake & Extn. Areas	2054	2930	4984	66	1291	1259	2550	34	7534
MURSHIDABAD	839	470	1309	84	144	114	258	16	1567
BURDWAN									
Jangal Mahal	1646	2146	3792	72	826	638	1464	28	5256
PURULIA									
Bandwan	588	394	982	81	157	79	236	19	1218
MAYURBHANJ									
Jamda	80	61	141	72	34	21	55	28	196
Bijatala	220	165	385	69	89	85	174	31	559
ON-SITE									
Dasnagar	219	454	673	60	228	216	444	40	1117
Khudirampally	243	526	769	54	315	329	644	46	1413
Total	7890	10386	18276	67	4697	4155	8852	33	27128

The table indicates the number of patients who have received curative services as a part of our health programme. Compared to previous years, although the number of cases has increased on account of expansion of the operational areas, analysis reveals that there has been decline in the number of cases in proportion to the population served.

TABLE—IV

BIRTH RECORD AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

AREA	Total Births	Birth Rate	Death between 0—1 year	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
CALCUTTA				
Entally	107	26.7	8	154.3
Ultadanga	59	4.7	4	67.7
Salt Lake	97	14.3	12	243.7
MURSHIDABAD	43	17.4	5	116.2
BURDWAN				
Jangal Mahal	43	26.8	3	69·7
PURULIA				
Bandwan	44	12.2	3	68.1
MAYURBHANJ				
Jamda	23	9	4	173.9
Bijatala	19	11.9	1	52.6
ON-SITE				
Dasnagar	19	23.7	3	157.8
Khudirampally	28	11.2	3	107.1

TABLE—V

ANTE NATAL CARE

AREA	Expectant mothers detected				
	Upto 5th month		After 5th month		
	Number	percent of total	Number	percent of total	Total
CALCUTTA					
Entally	55	62.5	33	37.5	88
Ultadanga	60	62.5	36	37.5	96
Salt Lake	33	54.1	28	45.9	61
MURSHIDABAD	32	58.1	23	41.8	55
BURDWAN					
Jangal Mahal	59	59.5	40	40.4	99
PURULIA					
Bandwan	25	32.4	52	67.5	77
MAYURBHANJ					
Jamda	13	59	9	40.9	22
Bijatala	4	57.1	3	42.8	7
ON-SITE					
Dasnagar	7	35	13	65	20
Khudirampally	21	70	9	30	30

The table indicates the percentage of mothers reporting for the first time before and after fifth month of pregnancy. Increasing trend to report in early months of pregnancy is evident.

TABLE—VI

NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF UNDER-FIVES

AREAS	Total No. of children	Normal & Grade-I	Malnutrition Grade-II & III	Percentage of High Risk Grade-II &III
CALCUTTA				
Entally	416	364	52	12.5
Ultadanga	377	291	86	22.8
Salt Lake	713	630	83	11.6
MURSHIDABAD	290	235	55	18.9
BURDWAN				
Jangal Mahal	330	239	91	27.5
PURULIA				
Bandwan	285	216	69	24.2
MAYURBHANJ				
Jamda	73	43	30	41.0
Bijatala	189	151	38	20.1
ON-SITE				
Dasnagar	58	42	16	27.5
Khudirampally	156	129	27	17.3
Total	2887	2340	547	18.9

Table illustrates the nutritional status of children under five years determined through weighing. An important feature to note is that slightly less than 1/5 of all children in our programme areas currently fall in the high risk category compared to estimates of about 1/3 before initiation of health activities.

EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION

Nature, when it unleashes its fury is an adversary beyond reckoning, devastating whatever comes in its path, leaving behind, a trail of destruction. It is during these tragic times that relief operations become necessary to provide succour to millons of hapless victims. The year 1986, as in other years, also witnessed major disasters in the country. The States of West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh were severely affected by floods due to abnormal monsoon rains. Calcutta and its low lying suburbs were waterlogged for a considerable number of days.

Floods—recurrent phenomenon in the Eastern region.

The LWS-India E & R Unit took up flood emergency operations in Calcutta and in the districts of Howrah and 24-Parganas of West Bengal. Nearly 600,000 flood victims were assisted with emergency food rations along with medical aid. Health and nutrition programs continued even after flood waters receded and conditions normalised, to prevent outbreak of post calamity epidemics.

Incessant rainfall during the latter half of August in the catchment areas of River Godavari, caused what has been termed as the 'flood of the century' in Andhra Pradesh. East and West Godavari districts were the hardest hit, causing unprecedented loss of human lives, destruction of property, crop and cattle. The LWS E & R Unit responded to the request of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) and initiated emergency relief programs in these two districts. Approximately 334,000 beneficiaries were assisted with relief measures which included distribution of clothing, blankets and nutrition program. A housing resettlement program is also under finalisation for the most needy among the flood victims.

Regular drought conditions during the past few years have sapped the strength, vitality and resilience of the people of Kalahandi district of Orissa to such an extent that the situation demanded the continuation of the nutrition and food-for-work programs by the E & R Unit. The food-for-work operations undertaken during the year aimed at creating irrigation infrastructure and providing work and food to the landless labourers. The Government of Orissa contributed 100 MT of wheat which was fully utilised for the projects in two Blocks of the operational area.

Likewise, the E & R Unit was active throughout the year in the district of Birbhum in West Bengal. A number of labour intensive food-for-work projects were taken up to improve irrigation facilities while providing the landless labourers an opportunity for sustained employment.

Follow-up activities, subsequent to relief measures, initiated among flood and cyclone affected population included building of 50 traditional houses and 204 permanent houses in Orissa, the latter in collaboration with the State Government. Additionally, 250 permanent houses were constructed in Andhra Pradesh. Other rehabilitation activities in Orissa and West Bengal included sinking of 75 tubewells and construction of 45 primary school buildings, of which 17 were completed.

Note : Details of Emergency & Rehabilitation activities appear in a separate report.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

During the year the Finance Team continued with their efforts to strengthen and further systematise the monitoring of financial as well as material inputs. In depth analysis and critical examination of investments vis-a-vis accrued social benefits, rate of return and other factors helped to assess the cost effectiveness as well as cost benefit ratio of project activities, enabling the projects to optimise and rationalise resource utilisation.

Efficient planning and management techniques resulted in the utilisation of approximately 86 per cent of the available fund in 1986 as compared to 64 per cent in 1985. Simultaneously local participation in terms of monetary value registered a 54 per cent increase over 1985.

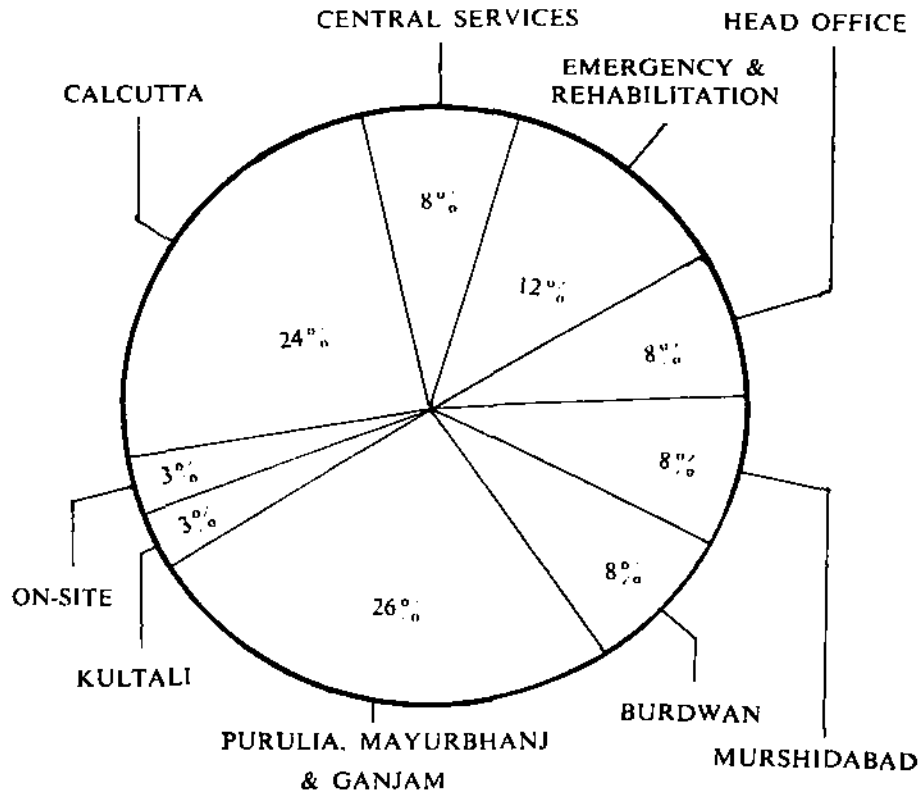
Workshops and orientation courses were held during the year to familiarise the personnel with the nature and role of financial management.

Regular visits to project areas and interaction with field personnel helped to streamline the financial and material management systems.

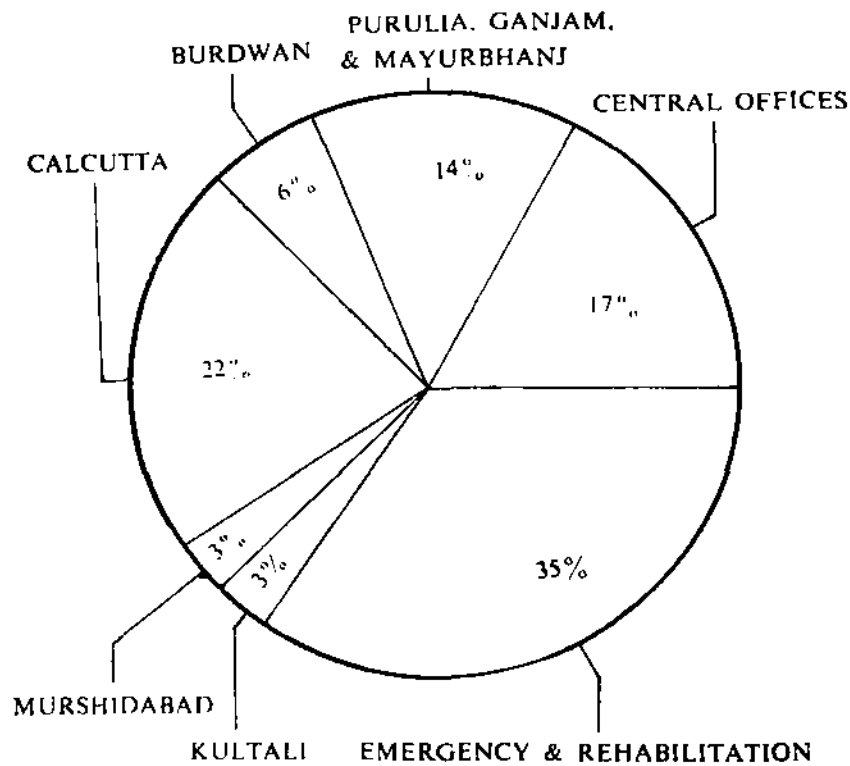
Strengthening the accounting procedures of community revolving funds received major emphasis during the year. Simple accounting systems have been designed to ensure accuracy of accounts maintained by local organisations.

Commendable assistance and support were received from our auditors M/s. Price Waterhouse and Company, in our efforts to achieve greater financial discipline and control.

STAFF DISTRIBUTION
TOTAL STAFF – 459



ASSET DISTRIBUTION
TOTAL VALUE: US $ 1631664



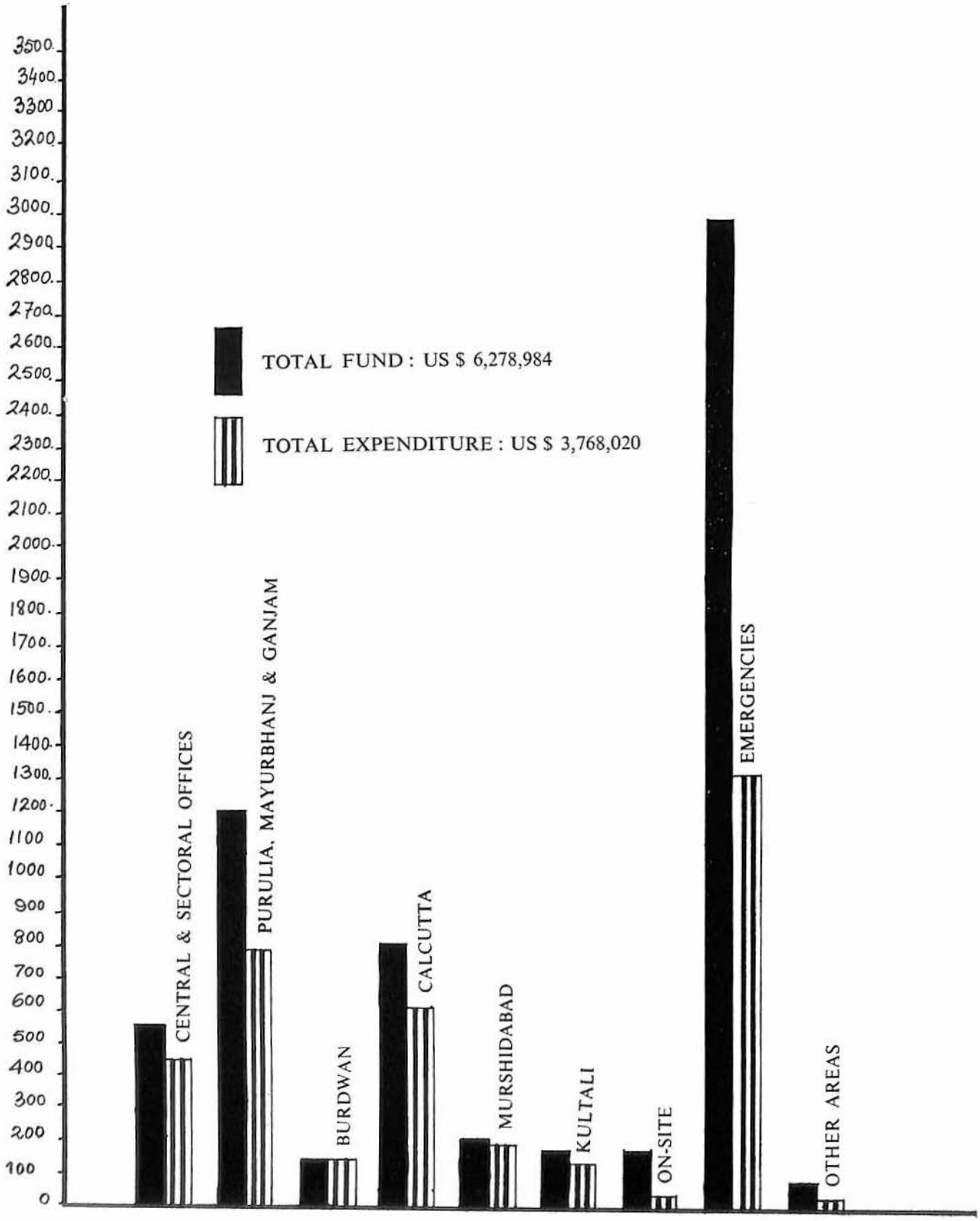
FUND UTILISATION

PROGRAMME-WISE

	U S $	(%)
Health Services	197,349	5
Technical Services	29,665	1
Education	287,696	8
Agriculture	158,519	4
Development Communication	52,263	1
Infrastructure	685,899	18
Planning Research	76,443	2
Housing	312,938	8
Training Workshop Seminar	27,423	1
Irrigation	270,128	7
Drinking Water Supply	457,388	12
Aid to disabled	25,021	1
Clothing	212,098	6
Nutrition	40,321	1
Economic Measures	333,851	9
Food-For-Work	70,758	2
Administration	530,260	14
	3,768,020	100

FUND AND EXPENDITURE

AREA-WISE



LWS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.86

	Rs.	US $
Expense Category		
Central Offices	5,585,192	455,584
Water, Health & Agriculture Trident	9,752,861	789,499
Burdwan Projects	1,627,323	132,988
Calcutta Projects	7,560,055	614,831
Murshidabad Projects	2,662,861	216,537
Kultali Projects	1,904,715	155,173
On-Site Improvement Projects	529,141	42,941
Emergency Operation	16,300,447	1,325,446
Other areas	424,796	35,021
	46,347,391	3,768,020
Total Resources Administered		
LWS Funds	46,347,391	3,768,020
LWS Materials	3,083,218	251,486
Local Participation	2,272,636	185,370
	51,703,245	4,204,876

Note: Details of resources administered for 1986 Emergency Operation totalling Rs. 20,964,652 (US $ 1,699,589) are shown in the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit's annual report.

THE EXECUTIVE

Central Office

Director	—	Aage Larsen
Deputy Director	—	G. S. Banerjee
Programme Secretary	—	Neville Pradhan
Finance Adviser	—	C. Minderhoud
Chief Accountant	—	D. Roychoudhury
Emergency Officer	—	P. C. Joseph

Sectoral Offices

Development Communication	—	T. K. Ray, *Programme Coordinator*
Engineering & Technical Services	—	K. Roy, *Technical Adviser*
Community Health Services	—	Dr. B. K. Ghosh, *Programme Coordinator*

Programme Offices

Burdwan	—	D. K. Kar, *Dy. Programme Coordinator*
Calcutta & On-Site Improvement	—	B. N. Poddar, *Programme Coordinator*
Kultali	—	A. R. Majumdar, *Programme Coordinator*
Murshidabad	—	P. K. Chakraborty, *Programme Coordinator*
Water, Health & Agriculture Trident (WHAT)	—	Dr. B. B. Choudhuri, *Programme Coordinator*

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